

Coordinated Training Program Builds Stronger Responder Corps for Safer Incident Recovery

Unified “team” approach allows the roads to be cleared faster

Three injury crashes occur every minute in the United States, putting nearly 39,000 incident responders potentially in harm’s way every day. Congestion from these incidents often generates secondary crashes, further increasing traveler delay and frustration. The longer incident responders remain at the scene, the greater the risk they, and the traveling public, face. Minimizing the time and resources required for incident clearance is essential to meeting our goals for safety and reliability.

A cadre of well-trained responders can more quickly reduce the time it takes to clear accidents, offering the benefits of reduced congestion and lost travel time for travelers, as well as the potential to better protect our incident responders.

A variety of new training options to advance National Traffic Incident Management

The Solution

A new coordinated, multi-disciplinary training program developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) is now available for all emergency responders and those supporting Traffic Incident Management operations. The training **puts police, firefighters, state and local departments of transportation, towing, medical personnel, and other incident responders on the same page, leading to a safer, faster, integrated responder team.**

The train-the-trainer curriculum is aimed at building a cadre of qualified trainers within each state or region, using a common set of practices and advanced standards. The training is delivered through interactive seminars, case study analysis, tabletop role-play and scenario, and field practicum. Participants can attend a 10-hour intensive course, a four-hour modified version, or several shorter, single-lesson modules. These programs have been shown to facilitate traffic incident recovery, resulting in streamlined, effective responses while building a common platform of proven practices in incident management training.

Integrated Responder Teams Can Cut Response Times and Clear Incidents from the Roadway Faster

FOCUS AREA: Reliability (L12)

Coordinated, multi-disciplinary training program delivered through interactive seminars, tabletop role-play, and field practicum. Available in several modules for ease-of-use.

Save Lives

- Faster incident response and clearance times result in fewer secondary crashes.
- Training results in less exposure of responder team to moving traffic during recovery.



Save Money

- Less congestion leads to fewer freight and traveler delays in backups.
- Fewer secondary crashes save on insurance claims.
- Faster cleanups lead to cost savings for incident personnel.



Save Time

- Smarter response techniques cut congestion clearance time, decreasing delays.



The Benefits

Participants in SHRP2's National Traffic Incident Management Training have access to the most up-to-date, multi-agency standards and best practices successfully used across the nation to improve on-scene responder and motorist safety.

Training modules are flexible and can incorporate local or state regulations or techniques. Bringing together responders across all agencies improves team performance. Trained responders work together in a coordinated manner, from the moment the first emergency call is made, to the correct deployment of response vehicles, traffic cones, and advanced warning devices to ensure proper safety buffers and a secure work area. Proper handling and identification of hazardous materials, guidelines for working with hybrid vehicles, debris clearance, tow truck protocols, and cleanup are among the guidance covered in the curriculum.

Who is using these tools?

In Atlanta, GA, improved incident response practices reduced secondary crashes by 69 percent in 12 months, saving lives and more than \$1 million in delays. Training has been held in Virginia, Florida, Montana, Arizona, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Colorado. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Volunteer Fire Council have endorsed the program.

Who benefits?

- ▶ Law enforcement
- ▶ Fire and rescue
- ▶ Emergency medical services
- ▶ Transportation agencies
- ▶ Training and recovery professionals
- ▶ Notification and dispatch personnel
- ▶ Hazardous materials management responders
- ▶ Coroners and medical examiners
- ▶ Public works professionals
- ▶ The public

How can you learn more?

Training classes are forming now. The curriculum is described in *Training of Traffic Incident Responders*, available online at <http://www.trb.org/Publications/Blurbs/166877.aspx>. For more information on how to enroll, contact Jim Austrich at FHWA, james.austrich@dot.gov; Paul Jodoin at FHWA, paul.jodoin@dot.gov; Kevin Sanders at AASHTO, ksanders@aaashto.org; or David Plazak at TBR, dplazak@nas.edu.



About SHRP2 Implementation

The second Strategic Highway Research Program is a national partnership of key transportation organizations: the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Transportation Research Board. Together, these partners conduct research and deploy products that will help the transportation community enhance the productivity, boost the efficiency, increase the safety, and improve the reliability of the Nation's highway system.

Strategic Highway Research Program

U.S. Department of Transportation | Federal Highway Administration
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