

Greater Hartford Coalition Newsletter

From The Editor – Seven years ago, I came to the Capitol Region Council of Governments to reinforce the traffic incident management role in the region. In those years I have met, and worked with, a dedicated group of members and have learned a great deal on how each responder group handles an incident on our roadways.

They train, practice, and prepare on how to manage crashes involving a multitude of scenarios. Every crash is different, and having the knowledge and expertise to handle these situations is daunting. Interacting with traffic while trying to save a life, secure a spilled load of materials, control hazardous exposure, and clearing a scene is not for the faint hearted.

The week of November 13 to 17 is dedicated to Crash Responder Safety Week and highlights the work of these dedicated responders. However, let us not just recognize them one week of every year, let us recognize them every day. We need to show support for our members of the emergency response community and encourage all drivers to

Slow Down and Move Over and Protect Those Who Protect You



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RESPONDER SAFETY - PROMPT, RELIABLE, INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS - SAFE, QUICK CLEARANCE



HUNDREDS IN CONNECTICUT CITED UNDER 'MOVE OVER' LAW; EMERGENCY RESPONDERS CALL FOR IMPROVED ROAD SAFETY

Fire police officer hit by vehicle while directing traffic at Route 44 crash in Bolton, official says

Liz Hardaway, Matthew P Knox
July 25, 2023 | Updated: July 25, 2023 12:18 p.m.



We have families too': After second roadside death in three years, tow truck drivers call on Connecticut motorists to respect the 'Move Over' law – Hartford Courant



NBC Connecticut
Fire Truck Struck
While at Crash on I-...

A garbage truck and a box truck were involved in a crash.



Windsor police officer hit by car while responding to series of crashes on I-91 south

The responding Windsor police officer was on the scene of the pole crash near Exit 37 around 2:25 a.m. when a vehicle hit him and then drove off.



Paramedic Among 2 Killed After Driver Hits First Responders Working Crash

IN THE NEWS



A Really Dangerous Place': Concerns for First Responders Working on Roads

NBC Connecticut, February 21, 2023, 5:23 AM

From a firefighter being hit in Cromwell to a police officer struck in Stonington, there are concerns for those working on the road.

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/top-video-ott/a-really-dangerous-place-concerns-for-first-responders-working-on-roads/2980208/>

TALKING STATISTICS



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Where Is the Data on Emergency Personnel Being Struck by Vehicles?

The most frequent request we receive at ResponderSafety.com is for data on the number of responders killed or injured while operating at incident scenes. Jack Sullivan answers the question about struck-by data and statistics. **Click on the link to view the full article.** [Where Is the Data on Emergency Personnel Being Struck by Vehicles?](#)



How Can YOU Help???

REPORT A STRUCK BY OR NEAR MISS INCIDENT

ResponderSafety.com has long championed the need for data collection and analysis on near miss and struck by incidents. There are many factors that make this data collection and analysis challenging.

There is no federal legislation that mandates the reporting of these incidents. Emergency responders to roadway incidents number in the millions and come from tens of thousands of different agencies, including fire, EMS, law enforcement, DOT, safety service patrols, special traffic control units, and towing and recovery. There is no central database or organization that collects struck by and near miss statistics for all these roadway responder groups. And here are over 6 million police-reported traffic accidents every year, a number that doesn't include other roadway operations like public events and wildfires. It's a staggering number of agencies, personnel, and incidents to track.

STRUCK BY REPORTING

It typically takes 3-4 minutes to complete this reporting form. There are twelve very brief sections. All questions are optional. Please provide as much information as you can. If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it. If you have a problem with or a question about the form, please [contact us](#).

[Click here to download](#) a paper copy of this form for internal use by dispatchers to record information for later data entry into the online form.

NEAR MISS INCIDENTS

Yet, we believe progress can and must be made. We must do better because responders are dying every day on the job in preventable incidents at roadway responses. At ResponderSafety.com, we believe we must start with good data to understand what is happening at these near misses and struck by incidents so we, as a responder community, can design effective prevention strategies and put those strategies into action.

Please join us in this effort. Support these voluntary-reporting databases by submitting reports of near miss and struck by incidents where you have been present. That will help us understand what we need to do so we can move forward to reduce these tragic incidents.

- [Fire Near Miss](#)
- [LEO Near Miss](#)
- [Towing Traffic Incident Reporting System](#)

In addition, if you know of another organization collecting near miss and struck by incidents that took place during a roadway response, please [contact us](#).

WEBINARS AND PODCASTS

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Talking TIM Webinar series (<https://transportationops.org/tim>) provides a forum where TIM champions with any level of experience can exchange information about current practices, programs, and technologies. Each month, the FHWA TIM Program Team will feature content that highlights successful programs, identifies best practices, and highlights technology that advances the profession.

July 2023 – Go to <https://youtu.be/TMcYsLPACiU> Topic and presenters for this webinar include:

- *Emergency Vehicle Preemption* in Phoenix, AZ region – Jeff Jenq, TSMO Program Manager, Maricopa Association of Governments.
- *Traffic Incident Management for Managed Lanes I* Florida- Mike Hudson, TIM Program Manager, Florida DOT District 5 Traffic Operations.

August 2023 - Go to <https://youtu.be/xrMB-uub9vc> Topic and presenters for this webinar include:

- *Medical Helicopter Landing Zone Considerations for Roadway Crashes* – Thomas Judge, Executive Director, LiteFlight of Maine.
- *Wearable 360-degree lighting: Real Roadside Safety and Visibility in a Distracted World* – Dan Keller with Guardian Angel Devices and Patrick Chavez, Colorado DOT Statewide Emergency Manager.

September 2023 – Go to <https://youtu.be/a4WQMaW99Qw?si=CbW3DkCeGcEFpy9o> Topics and presentations for this webinar include:

- *Managing the I-40 Mississippi Bridge Closure* – Michael Welch, Director of Operations, and Brian White, TMC Manager, Tennessee DOT Region 4.
- *I-95 Bridge Collapse Response and Coordination in Pennsylvania* – Daniel Farley, Bureau of Operations Director, Pennsylvania DOT.
- *Audience Listening Session: Communications Strategies for Major Incidents.*

TIM TALK

Why After-Action Reviews Matter

The purpose of after actions reviews is to collectively review and discuss the overall response, management, investigation, communication and clean- up/vehicle recovery process of this traffic incident with all involved responder agencies as one team. The discussion should include things that went well and things that can be improved upon for future traffic incident response (lessons learned). Information contained in AARs is typically compiled from various sources including personal and group interviews, a review of individual agency dispatch (CAD) logs, scene photographs/videos and investigative reports.



The information compiled for an AAR represents the actions of all responding agencies and individuals, at different times during the response, producing legitimate but often varying perspectives. The goal is to have an open dialogue and discuss how assigned tasks and responsibilities were managed to work towards the goal of safe, quick clearance of the highway. It is also an opportunity to share innovative techniques, and best practices used to improve on Quick Clearance strategies. The Connecticut Department of Transportation Traffic Incident Management Coordinator, Aidan Neely, and his TIM Team have been conducting AARs throughout the State. Some of the most recent AAR's included I-95 New Haven Tractor Trailer Fire/Fatality on 4-2-23; I-95 Gold Star Memorial Bridge Tanker/Vehicle Fire on 4-21-23; I-84 Manchester FedEx Tandem TT Unit rollover on 4-21-23; I-84 Newtown Tractor Trailer Rollover 7-18-23; I-84 Manchester Tractor Trailer Gasoline Tanker Crash/Fire on 9-3-23.

TRAINING NEWS

**Stay SAFE and keep learning and TRAINING because your life depends on it...
BE PREPARED for all the incidents that you will face on the road!**



CT TIM TRAINING SESSIONS

Free, One Day TIM Responder Training courses and OEMS CNE credits for this training:

NEW Dates Available: Sat. Oct. 28th, Wed. Nov. 15th, Sat. Nov. 18th, Wed. Dec. 13th, Sat. Dec. 16th, Wed. Jan. 24th, Sat. Jan 27th, 2024.

Time: 8:30am – 3:45pm

Location: CT DOT Headquarters, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington

Please email CTDOT TIM Coordinator, Aidan Neely, email: Aidan.Neely@ct.gov , with the names of anyone from your respective agencies who would like to attend this training on any of the listed dates. In addition to Police, Fire, EMS, EMD, Wreckers, DOT/Public Works responders, they have had an increase in attendance from communication center Dispatchers.

“We have discovered that having Dispatchers attend the training is extremely beneficial for everyone due to the complex communication role involved in Traffic Incident Management incidents. We also welcome the representatives from the respective Council of Government (COG) offices and the Connecticut DEMHS regions to attend this training as well as they are also an integral member of the team.” Rob Derry, TIM Trainer

The CTDOT TIM Training Team is also available to provide on-site TIM training. They request that if an agency would like to host them, they would prefer to have a large class for the training day, usually at least twenty-five or more attendees. If possible, having a class that contains a mix of first responders from different first responder disciplines will start great conversations, thoughts, and ideas amongst the class participants. If any agency is interested in the CTDOT TIM Training group providing the on-site TIM Training at a facility in your community, please reach out anytime to Aidan Neely to work out the details. The on-site TIM Training, just as the CTDOT HQ TIM Training, is free of charge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crash Responder Safety Week November 13-17, 2023

"Protect Those Who Protect You"

WE'RE OUT HERE EVERY DAY.
HELPING YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT.
NOW YOU CAN HELP US OUT.
GIVE US ROOM TO SAVE LIVES.



IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT WE KNOW

Over and over, we see crashes that were preventable.
On this card are things we wish every motorist would do.
Read this card, and you'll know what we know:
Protect yourself.
Protect your family.
Protect us.
We don't want to meet you out here on the roadway.

A public service message courtesy of



Respondersafety.com is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (U.S. Department of Homeland Security), the U.S. Department of Justice, and public/private partnerships.

The theme for CRSW 2023 is "Protect Those Who Protect You," emphasizing the traveling public's role in keeping responders safe while responders make roadways safe for all road users.

This Crash Responder Safety Week, take the time to share the message **"Protect Those Who Protect You."**

We need the traveling public to remember to slow down, move over, and stay alert when they see law enforcement, fire, emergency medical service, public works, towing, and transportation responders at work on the side of the road.

We want the traveling public to think of the person responding to a scene, providing lifesaving care, and working to clear roadways, and the risks they take as drivers go by at high speeds some over 80 miles per hour.

We need you to help get this message across.

This Crash Responder Safety Week, I encourage each of you to share your stories on social media. Through your photos, videos, or written stories, explain what it's like to work roadside—and give the public a window into the importance and challenges of our job. Just use the hashtag **"#CRSW"**

Resources for public outreach can be found at

<https://www.respondersafety.com/resources/slow-down-move-over-laws/> and
<https://www.respondersafety.com/training/training-plans/crash-responder-safety-week-crsw-spotlights-traffic-incident-management-to-save-lives/>

Sunday, November 19, 2023

November 19

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS IN THE U.S.

November 19, 2023

1 – 3 p.m.

Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT

Join us as we remember the hundreds killed on our roadways each year. Families of victims, survivors, and others are welcome to attend. For more information, email awatkings01@connecticutchildrens.org.



#WDoR2023

#SafeStreetsForPeople

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR) is a worldwide event, now in its 30th year, that honors and acknowledges the many people killed by cars. Last year Connecticut saw 367 victims, 90 of them pedestrians and cyclists. This year the pace of fatalities continues. Connecticut will be holding its first statewide event in Bushnell Park, Hartford on November 19.

Family members of victims will speak, there will be a roll call of those pedestrians and cyclists who have died, prayers given by a faith leader, and some words from legislators. A sea of over 600 small white flags will represent those who have died on our CT roads in 2022 & 2023. Other family members and loved ones are invited to carry photos of victims. Anyone who has lost a loved one due to a vehicle crash is invited to attend, as well as survivors, and others who care about this issue.

https://www.facebook.com/events/1408483416674386/?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7D