

Traffic Incident Management Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025



Who We Are

The Iowa TIM Team is led by Ted Shipley (Statewide TIM Coordinator), Dawn Williams (TIM Program Planner), and Dan Noonan-Day (TIM Program Administrator.) The TIM Team’s goal is to create a coalition of responders and partners dedicated to keeping motorists and responders safe while restoring traffic flow as quickly, and as safely, as possible after an incident. Together, these groups form a unified front to reduce secondary crashes, protect lives, and keep Iowa’s roadways moving.

Our Mission Statement

The Iowa TIM Team is dedicated to ensuring the safety of responders and the public through coordinated, multi-agency collaboration and rapid, efficient response to traffic incidents. We strive to protect lives, minimize roadway disruption, and uphold a commitment to excellence in service and continuous improvement.

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Building Collaboration Through Iowa's TIM Committee

In Iowa, traffic incident management (TIM) is more than a response—it's a partnership. At the heart of that partnership is Iowa's TIM Team, a group that has become a model for collaboration between agencies and disciplines across the state.

The committee brings together an impressive cross-section of Iowa's responder community, including:

- **Iowa DOT**
- **Iowa State Patrol**
- **Local law enforcement, fire and EMS**
- **Towing and recovery professionals**
- **City and county officials**
- **Federal partners such as the Federal Highway Administration**

By meeting on a regular basis, this group works to align policies, share lessons learned, and strengthen communication before, during, and after incidents on Iowa's roadways.

The committee's efforts extend well beyond meetings. Members collaborate on statewide training initiatives, ensuring responders from urban and rural areas alike receive consistent, high-quality TIM instruction. They also develop and promote popular TIM practices and procedures that improve responder safety, reduce secondary crashes, and shorten clearance times.

Recent discussions have focused on:

- **Responder struck-by incidents** and strategies to reduce risks on busy highways.
- **Data and performance measures** - such as average roadway clearance times and secondary crash rates - to evaluate progress and highlight areas for improvement.
- **Emerging technology**, including tools like drones, traffic cameras, and advanced traffic management systems, that provide a clearer picture of roadway conditions in real time.

Perhaps most importantly, the Statewide TIM Committee fosters relationships that prove invaluable when major events occur. Whether responding to a winter pileup on I-80, a flood-related road closure, or a large-scale hazardous materials spill, responders are able to rely on pre-established trust and coordination.

By creating a common vision and speaking with one voice, the committee has positioned Iowa as a leader in multi-agency traffic incident management. The result is not just faster clearance of roadway incidents—but safer conditions for responders and motorists alike.

The takeaway? Collaboration isn't just a talking point. In Iowa, it's the foundation.

Highway Helper Successes and Trainings

We're proud to celebrate two outstanding members of our team for their exceptional dedication and service.

ACE Award – Steve Nelson

This month, we're honored to present the ACE Award to Steve Nelson for his unwavering commitment to AutoBase and the Highway Helper program. Steve's perfect attendance and readiness to take on overtime demonstrate his reliability and strong work ethic. Known for his professionalism and compassion, he's received multiple compliments from the public for his outstanding customer service. Steve's precise traffic control setups, focus on roadway safety, and positive attitude set an excellent example for his peers. Congratulations, Steve—you truly embody the values of our company.

Safety Award – Damien Fink

We also recognize Damien for his exceptional commitment to safety and service. Damien consistently goes above and beyond to assist motorists, respond to calls, and support fellow operators—no matter the time or location. His attention to detail was especially evident during a recent bridge incident, where he implemented a careful lane closure and extended his cone setup to ensure maximum safety in foggy conditions. Through his proactive approach and sound judgment, Damien helps keep both responders and motorists safe. Congratulations, Damien, and thank you for representing the highest standards of safety and service.

Trainings

During the training portion of the meeting, the classes were mainly led by Autobase, Inc. Administration and a few lead Highway Helpers that are stationed throughout the state.

On October 11, 2025, Highway Helper staff participated in a hands-on training session led primarily by Travis Schooley and Dave Venziane. The training focused on key roadway safety and incident response techniques including:

- **Center lane closures** – Operations Manager John Spidell-Hernandez
- **Covered shoulder closures** – Operator Paul Fitzgerald and Supervisor Jeremy Belloma
- **Center lane closures** – Operations Manager John Orozco and Supervisor Brendan Elli
- **Pushing vehicles** – Program Manager Travis Schooley

The session reinforced best practices and teamwork to ensure Highway Helper crews remain well-prepared to respond safely and efficiently on Iowa's roadways. This collaborative training not only strengthened operational skills but also enhanced communication and coordination among team members, ensuring continued excellence in roadway safety and incident response.

Closing the Gap Between Crash & Response

Every second counts when a crash occurs. Yet far too often, responders learn about collisions only after precious minutes—or even hours—have passed. Those delays can lead to secondary crashes, growing traffic congestion, and delayed medical care.

Flock Safety's Crash Detection solution is changing that story. By combining audio sensing and video verification, the system detects crashes within seconds—even when no one reports them—and immediately alerts transportation and emergency teams.

How It Works



Crash Detection uses smart roadside microphones to identify the distinct sounds of collisions, like metal impact or tire screeches.



Nearby cameras then verify the event, automatically time-stamping and recording what happened.



Within moments, an alert is sent to your team, allowing you to review video, coordinate a rapid response, and share critical details with police, EMS, and traffic operations.

For seamless implementation, the system works with existing roadway technology. Fast detection can save lives.

Studies show that EMS response times under 7 minutes are linked to significantly lower crash fatalities, while delays beyond 12 minutes increase the risk of death by 46%.

Crash Detection never sleeps—it's always on, always listening, and always working in the background to keep your roads safer. With a searchable video archive, planning-ready data, and real-time alerts, it bridges the critical gap between collision and correction.

When responders are notified the moment a crash happens, they can respond faster, protect more lives, and prevent the next crash.

Captain's Inspection

District 3 – Sioux City

John Spidell-Hernandez attended the Captain's Inspection in Sioux City, where the Highway Helper truck was showcased and discussions were held on patrol routes, communication, and partnership opportunities. The visit offered a valuable chance to highlight the program's role in supporting motorists and responders while strengthening collaboration with law enforcement partners.

Operated by the Iowa DOT, the Highway Helper program provides free roadside assistance and incident response services in metro areas across the state. From helping stranded motorists, to setting up traffic control at crash scenes, Highway Helper keeps drivers safe and helps responders focus on their critical work.

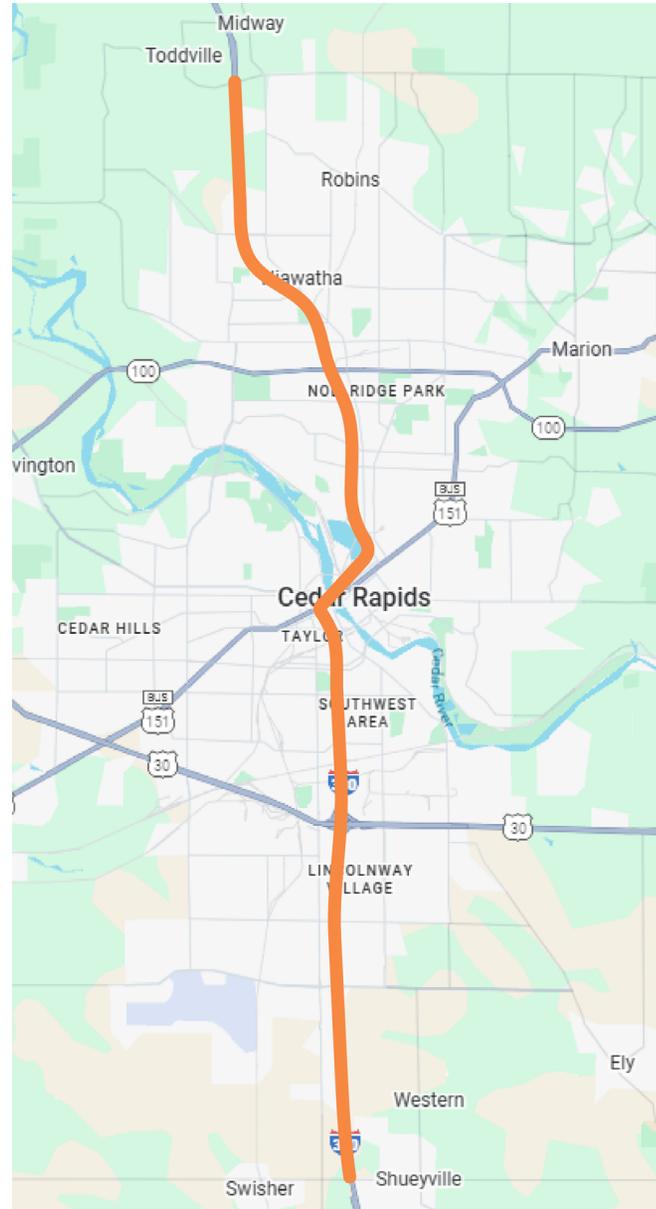
By quickly clearing stalled vehicles and managing traffic around incidents, the program helps prevent secondary crashes and reduces congestion. These efforts not only improve roadway safety but also ensure that traffic continues to move efficiently for everyone traveling Iowa's highways.

Crash Responder Safety Week 2025

Nov. 17th-25th

Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) is a national campaign that shines a spotlight on the dangers faced by police officers, firefighters, EMS, towing operators, and transportation workers who respond to roadway incidents. Led by the Federal Highway Administration and the National CRSW Committee, the effort brings together local, state, and national partners to promote roadway safety. Agencies and organizations are encouraged to share consistent safety messages through social media, press outreach, public events, and changeable message signs. A free outreach toolkit makes it easy to get involved, with templates for graphics, press releases, and flyers.

The Iowa Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team is proud to participate in Crash Responder Safety Week, which will be officially recognized in Iowa thanks to a proclamation by Governor Kim Reynolds designating November 18–22, 2025, as Crash Responder Safety Week in the state. Throughout the week, the Iowa TIM Team will share daily posts on the Iowa Traffic Incident Management Facebook page, highlighting each day's national theme and raising awareness about the critical work responders do to keep roadways safe.



Eye on It

TRIP Expansion into Linn County

The Iowa TIM Team is working with state and local agencies to expand the Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) into Linn County. The TRIP Initiative is already active in District 6, specifically Johnson County, but a need arose to expand the program into the Cedar Rapids area. Lengthy work zone corridors on I-380 and the high traffic volumes throughout Linn County have influenced the decision to extend the program from I-380 – Exit 10 (Swisher/Shueyville), all the way up to I-380 – Exit 28 (County Home Rd.) This expansion has yet to go live, however, the Iowa TIM Team continues to spread and train responders that will be affected by the expansion.

Upcoming Events

District-Wide TIM Meetings

District 1

Oct. 16th @ 10AM
 909 S 2nd St, Marshalltown,
 IA 50158

District 2

Oct. 20th @ 10AM
 123 1st St SW, Waverly, IA
 50677

District 4

Oct. 27th @ 10AM
 25747 N Ave, Adel, IA
 50003

District 6

Oct. 16th @ 10AM
 4529 Melrose Ave, Iowa
 City, IA 52246

District 1 - Metro Area

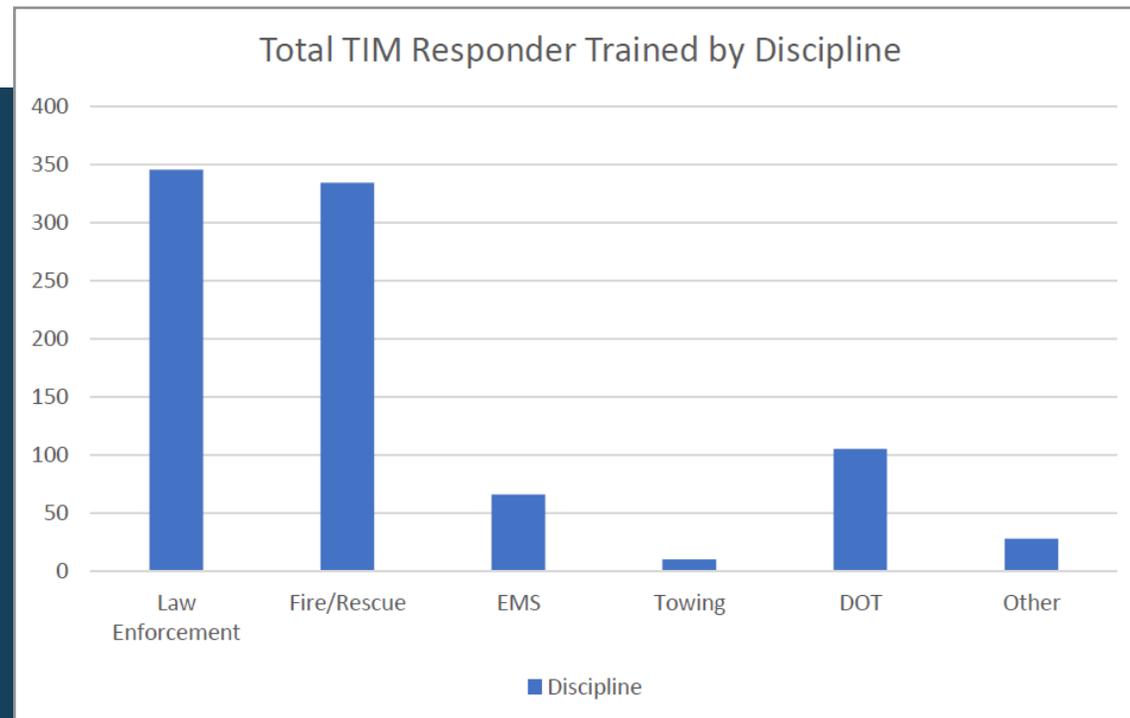
Oct. 21st @ 10AM
 1907 Carpenter Ave, Des
 Moines, IA 50314

District 3

Oct. 14th @ 10AM
 322 Lake St, Cherokee, IA
 51012

District 5

Oct. 23rd @ 10AM
 2930 N Ct St, Ottumwa, IA
 52501



Upcoming TIM Responder Trainings and Current Training Statistics

Monticello Fire Department

11/17/2025 @ 18:00
 Eric Payne – Post 10
Payne@DPS.State.IA.US

Iowa DOT – District #3

11/18/2025 @ 08:00
 Nick Albrecht – Post 5
Albrecht@DPS.State.IA.US



Reach out to the Iowa TIM Team to schedule a TIM Responder Training!

These classes are scheduled by request and we are happy to train as many personnel as possible to keep Iowa safe.