IOWA DOT
GETTING YOU THERE

2018

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER

Annual Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Iowa's Statewide Traffic Management Center (TMC) is a 24/7 center located in the Motor Vehicle Division building in Ankeny, Iowa. Iowa DOT uses the TMC to proactively monitor the transportation system in real-time, focusing mainly on the primary roadway system throughout Iowa. The highly-trained professional staff within the TMC coordinates with internal and external partners to detect disturbances to traffic flow and assist with implementing strategies that provide safe, quick clearance on the roadway. TMC staff monitors cameras and assists with state and local agencies and transportation industry stakeholders to keep travelers informed and on-scene responders protected. Tools such as 511, social media, and dynamic message signs allow broad and direct notification of incidents to those affected, aiming to reduce both traffic delay and secondary crashes.

The TMC is focused on :

IMPROVING travel time reliability.

ELIMINATING secondary crash conditions.

OPTIMIZING the function of the existing transportation system.

DISSEMINATING accurate, real-time traveler information to customers.

TRACKING winter weather and special events for situational awareness.

MONITORING traffic crashes, assisting partners with facilitating safe and quick clearance.

COLLECTING critical data for Traffic Incident Management and overall system improvement.

The TMC collects traffic data to support real-time decisions during traffic incidents and archives the information for future use. A monthly report is generated that describes the TMC trends, with the intent of making modifications to policies, practices, and procedures to counter undesirable trends. The 2018 Annual Report presents this collected data from the past year in areas including incidents, crashes, Highway Helper, freight, work zones, weather, and communication. Key performance indicators are presented in the 2018 Snapshot.

2018 SNAPSHOT

INCIDENTS	Number of incidents monitored by Iowa's Statewide TMC	**36,896**
CRASHES	Average crash clearance time	**1 hr 1 m**
HIGHWAY HELPER	Number of responses provided by Highway Helpers	**16,365**
FREIGHT	Average time to clear a lane blocking incident involving a tractor trailer	**2 hr 12 m**
WORK ZONES	Total work zone incidents	**122**
WEATHER	Total flooding events	**223**
COMMUNICATION	Total Emergency Incident Notification (EIN) email notifications sent	**20,622**

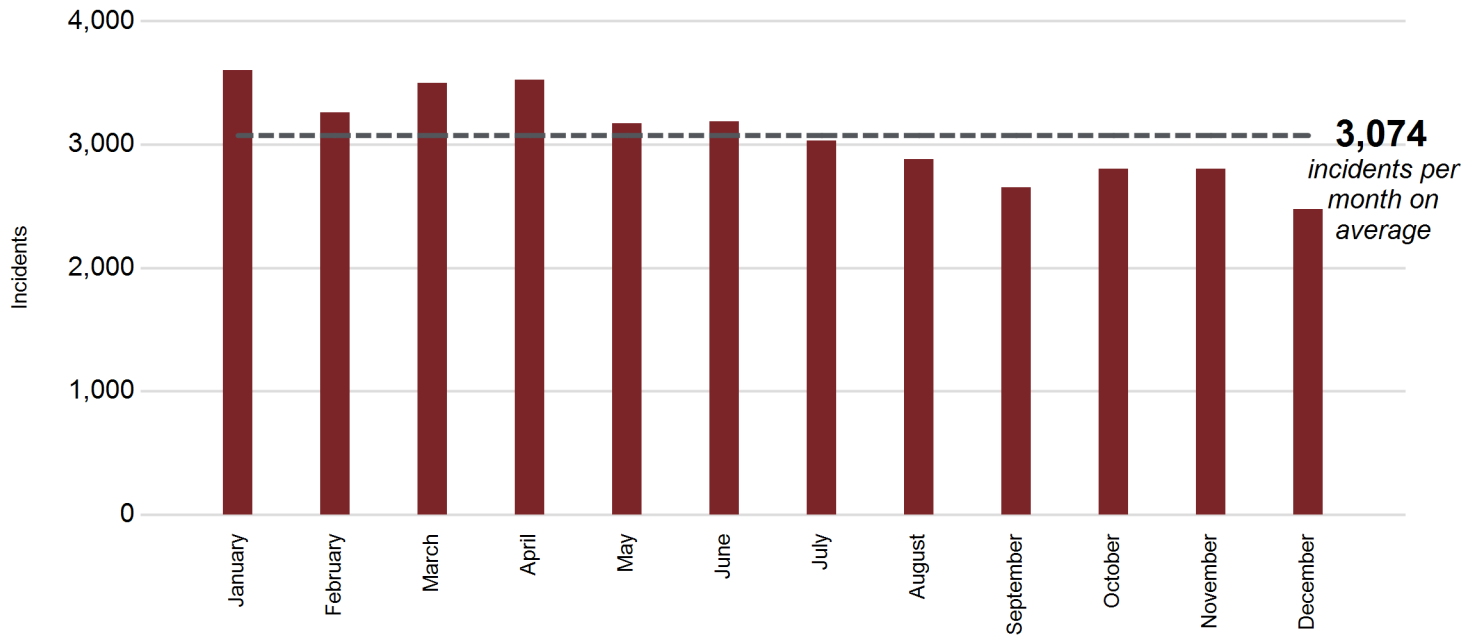
"Iowa's Statewide TMC is on the front line ensuring that our State's tools, infrastructure, and resources are optimized and used efficiently in addressing transportation safety and mobility. All who use our vast system, either commuting, traveling through, or transporting goods and services across the state, benefit from the real-time information streaming from the TMC. This 2018 Annual Report gives us the opportunity to take a look at performance and evaluate how we can keep improving this valuable service."

Andrew Lewis, Director
Office of Traffic Operations

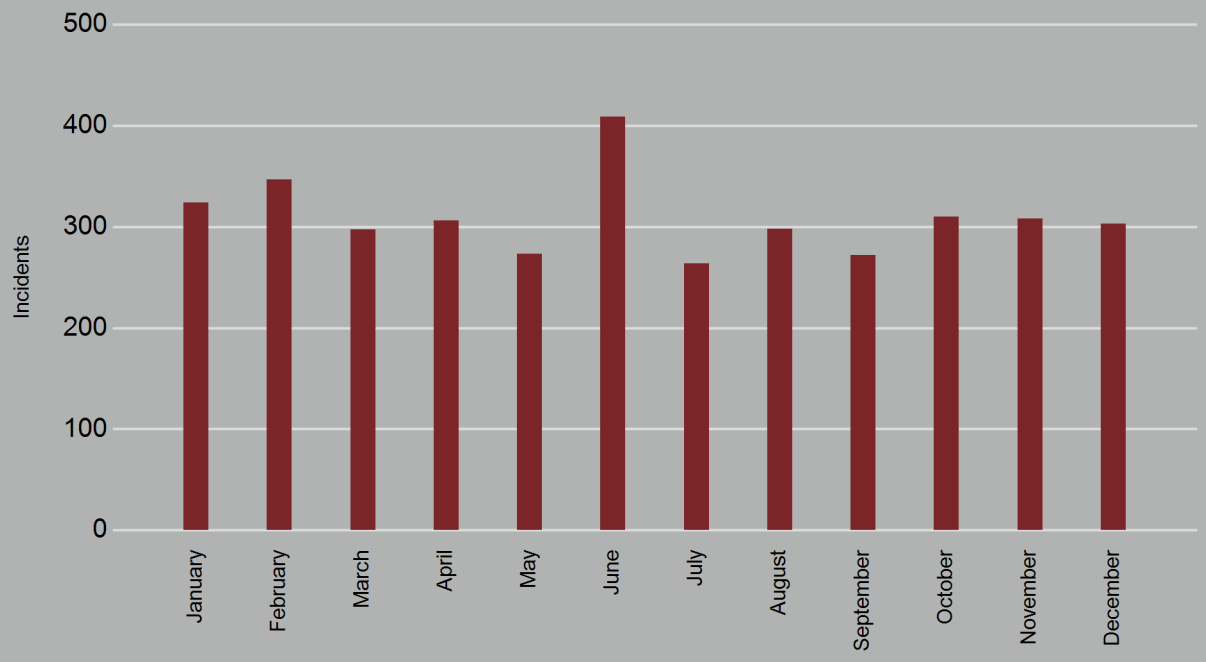
INCIDENTS

Incidents are defined as any event on the roadway that affects or can affect normal traffic flow. The TMC is informed of incidents on the roadway through technology, data sources, and various personnel. These incidents are tracked, reported, and monitored by the TMC.

Incidents monitored by TMC



Incidents with lane blockage



"Incidents with Lane Blockage" refers to the total number of incidents that resulted in at least one blocked lane of travel.

BY THE NUMBERS

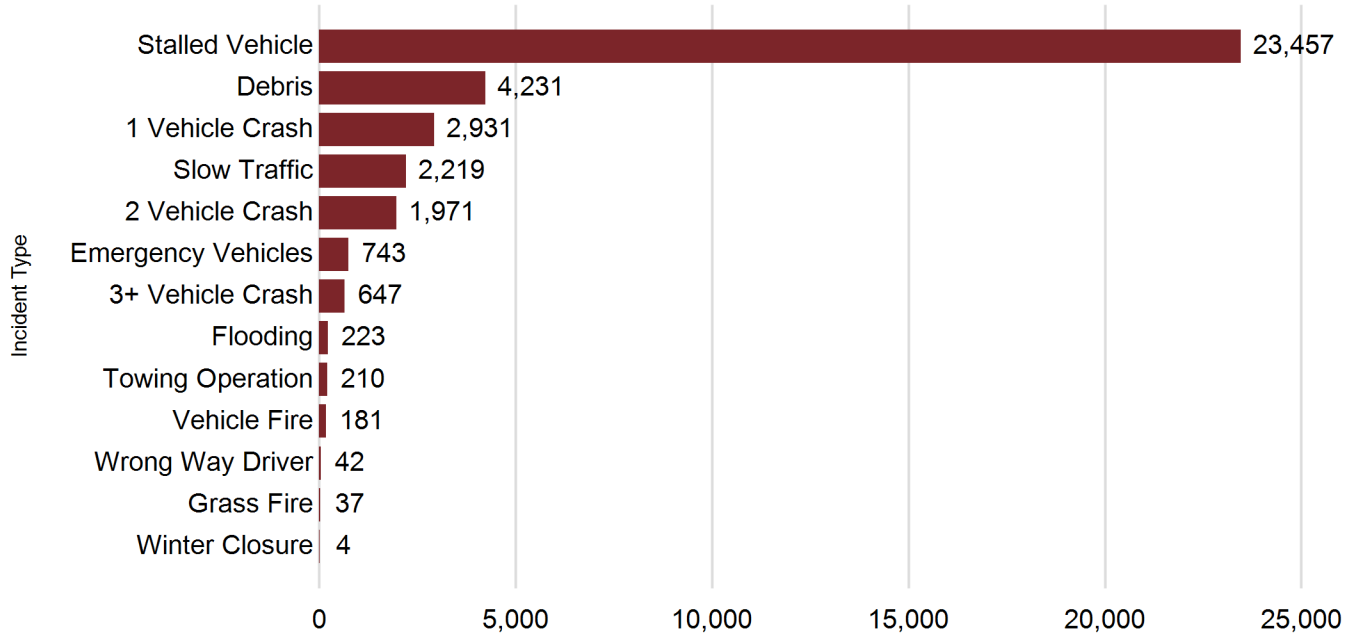
36,896
TOTAL INCIDENTS

30%
INCIDENTS DETECTED BY CAMERA

3,711
LANE BLOCKING INCIDENTS

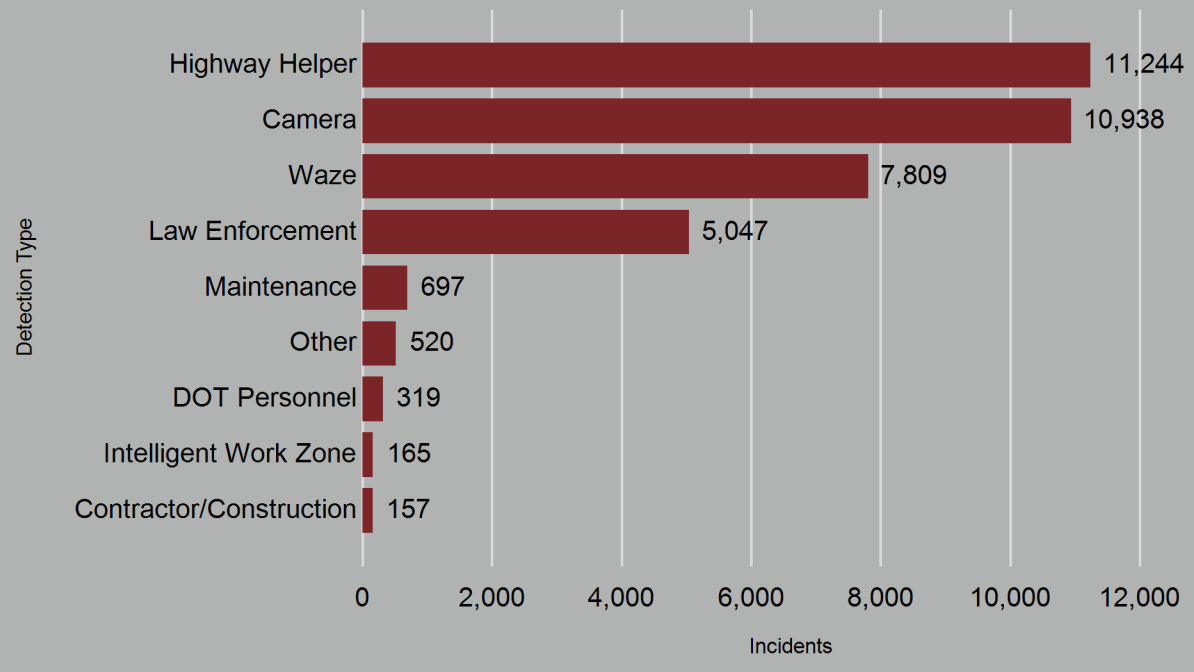
127 SECONDARY INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE TMC

Incidents by type



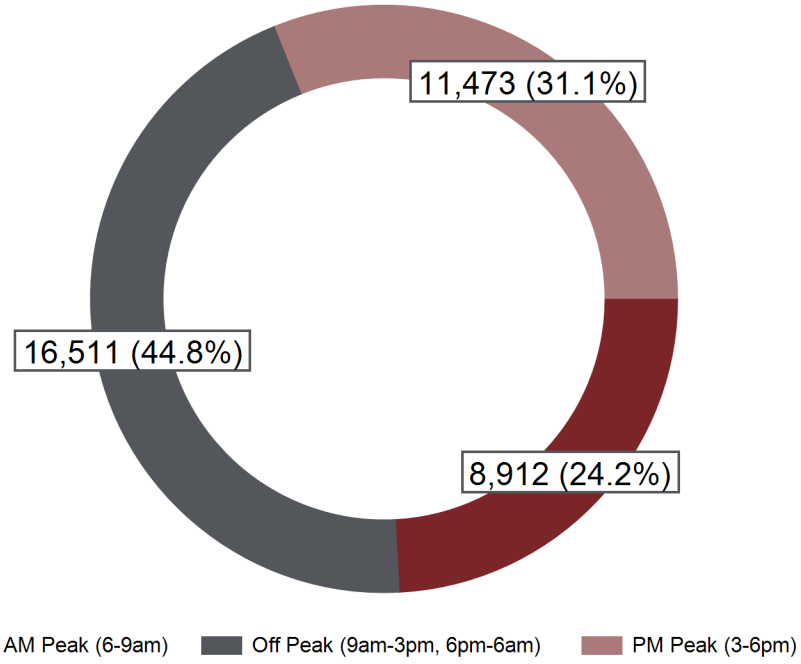
Incidents by detection source

Incidents are detected by TMC operators through cameras, roadway detection, Waze alerts, or reported to the TMC through responders on the roadway.

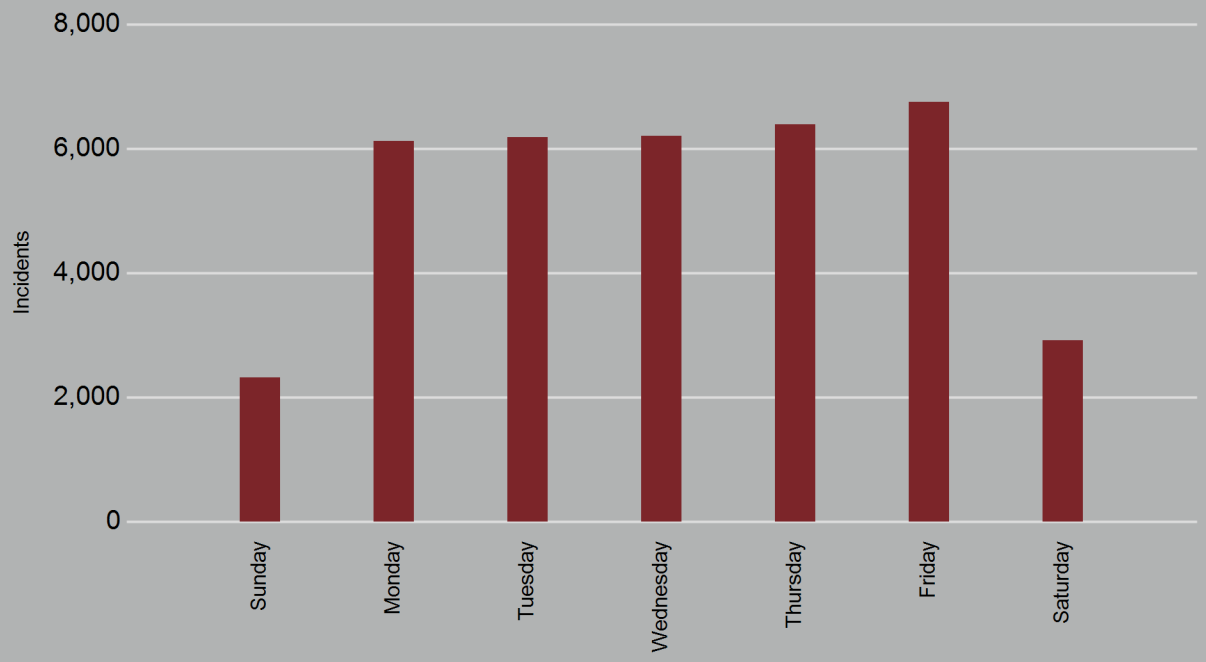


INCIDENTS

Incidents monitored during peak hours



Incidents by day of the week



Incidents more frequently occur on weekdays versus weekends due to the volume of traffic on the roadway.

BY THE NUMBERS

5,229
INCIDENTS OCCURRED ON WEEKENDS

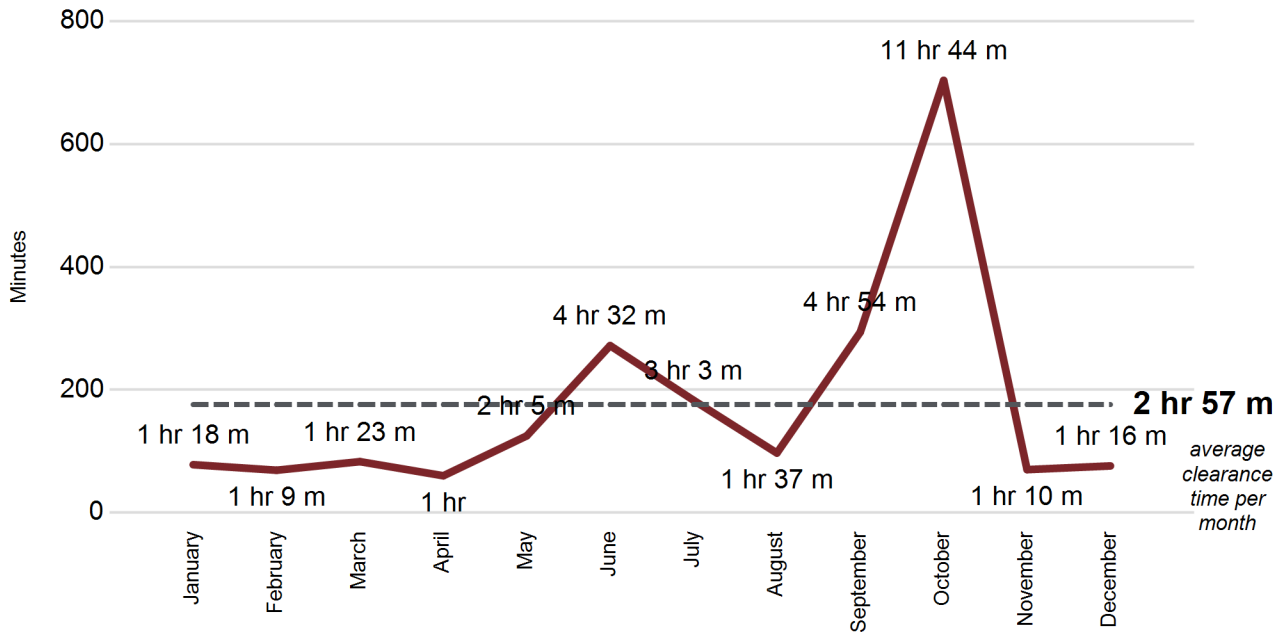
2 hr 57 m
AVERAGE INCIDENT CLEARANCE TIME

267
INCIDENTS EXCEEDING THE CLEARANCE TIME STANDARD DEVIATION

16,511 OFF PEAK INCIDENTS

The incident clearance time begins at the first notification of the incident and ends when the last responder has left the scene. This includes all incident types such as stalled vehicles, crashes, flooding, etc...

Average clearance times for incidents



Average incident clearance times are calculated by type each month. This table shows the number of incidents which exceed the average clearance time for that type by one standard deviation.

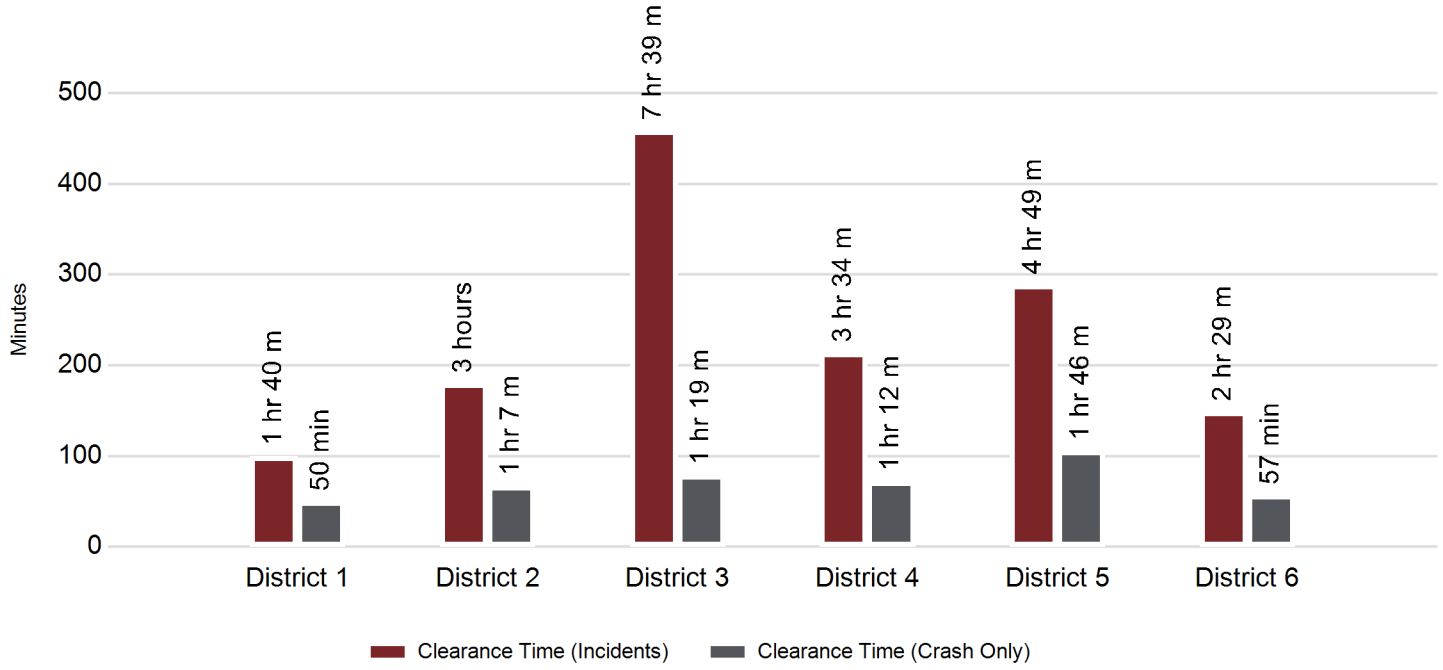
Incidents with excessive clearance times

Type	# Events	Average Duration	# Semi	# Fatality
Grass Fire	3	30 min	0	0
Stalled Vehicle	28	41 min	22	0
3+ Vehicle Crash	36	51 min	25	8
2 Vehicle Crash	91	58 min	45	29
Debris	6	1 hr	0	0
Vehicle Fire	10	1 hr 7 m	5	0
1 Vehicle Crash	52	1 hr 8 m	38	6
Slow Traffic	3	1 hr 25 m	0	0
Emergency Vehicles	3	3 hr 38 m	0	0
Towing Operation	19	5 hr 28 m	18	0
Flooding	16	1 day 12 hr 44 m	0	0

CRASHES

Crashes are one specific type of incident reported in the "Incident" section. Clearance times are tracked and reported for all incidents as well as crashes separately. Some incident types may have long clearance time durations and therefore crash clearance time is a more appropriate indicator of the impacts of quick clearance initiatives.

Average incident and crash clearance time by district



Incident type by district

Type	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6
1 Vehicle Crash	1,144	113	172	462	215	825
2 Vehicle Crash	979	80	128	198	107	479
3+ Vehicle Crash	363	16	23	45	16	184
Debris	1,896	98	116	936	96	1,089
Emergency Vehicles	284	42	58	115	50	194
Flooding	71	33	61	11	27	20
Grass Fire	15	0	3	7	1	11
Slow Traffic	1,442	122	76	162	15	402
Stalled Vehicle	11,499	397	318	3,367	685	7,191
Towing Operation	59	8	8	48	12	75
Vehicle Fire	63	6	12	31	16	53
Winter Closure	0	0	2	2	0	0
Wrong Way Driver	7	0	0	0	0	35
Total	**17,822**	**915**	**977**	**5,384**	**1,240**	**10,558**
% of all Incidents	**48%**	**2%**	**3%**	**15%**	**3%**	**29%**

The total number of incidents reported in Districts 1, 4, and 6 are greater than the other Districts due to additional incident tracking by the Highway Helper program and also additional traffic volumes in those Districts.

BY THE NUMBERS

183
RURAL CRASHES OVER 120 MINUTES

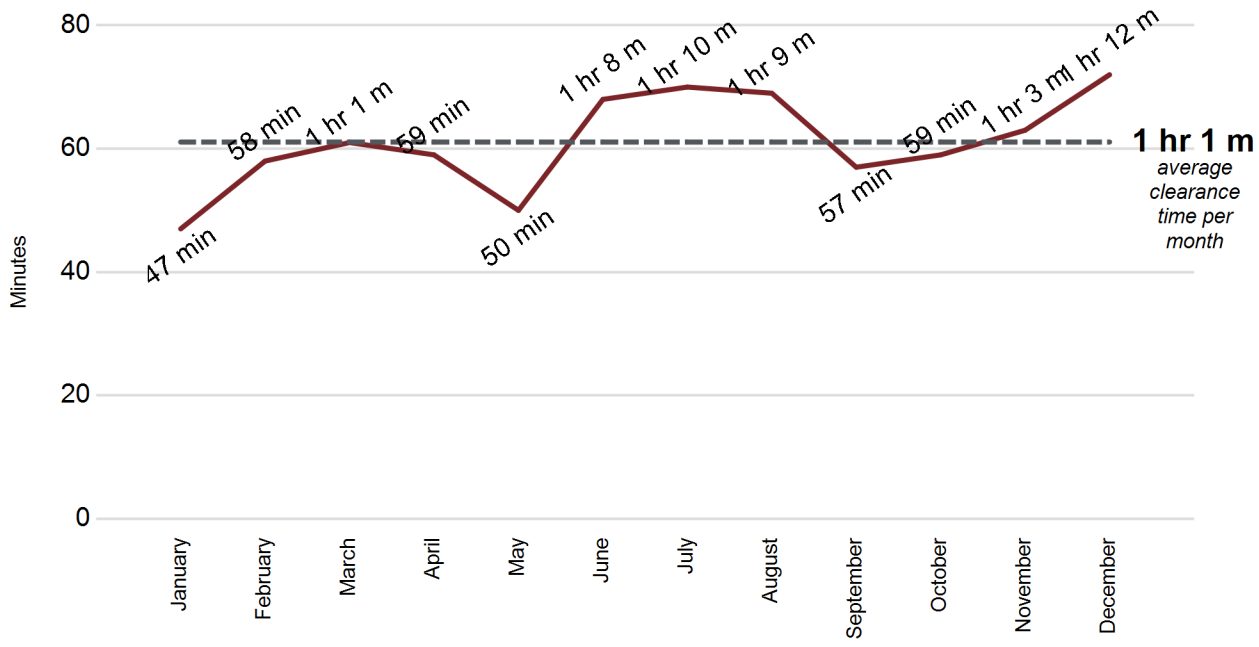
1 hr 1 m
AVERAGE CRASH CLEARANCE TIME

5,549
CRASHES MONITORED

42 WRONG WAY DRIVER INCIDENTS

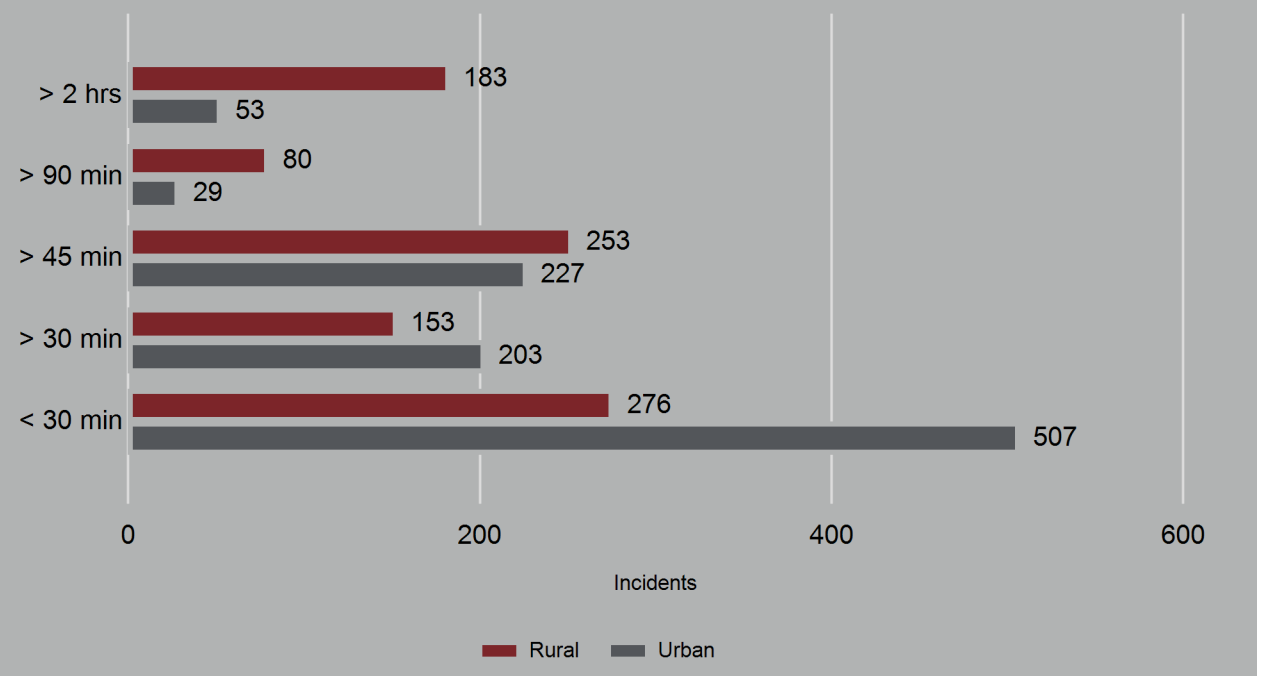
The crash clearance time begins at the first notification of the crash and ends when the last responder has left the scene. This includes only crashes and not other incident types.

Average clearance time for crashes



These performance measure thresholds were developed through the Joint Operations Policy Statement (JOPS), a collaboration between DOT & DPS.

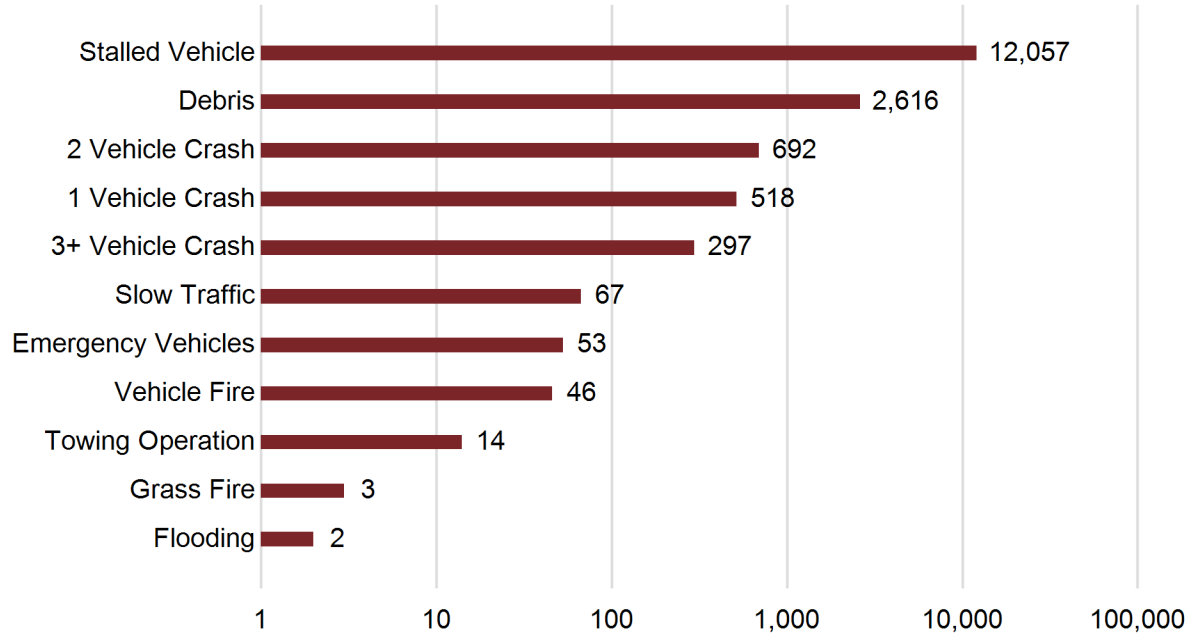
Crashes at 30, 45, 90, and 120 minute thresholds



HIGHWAY HELPER

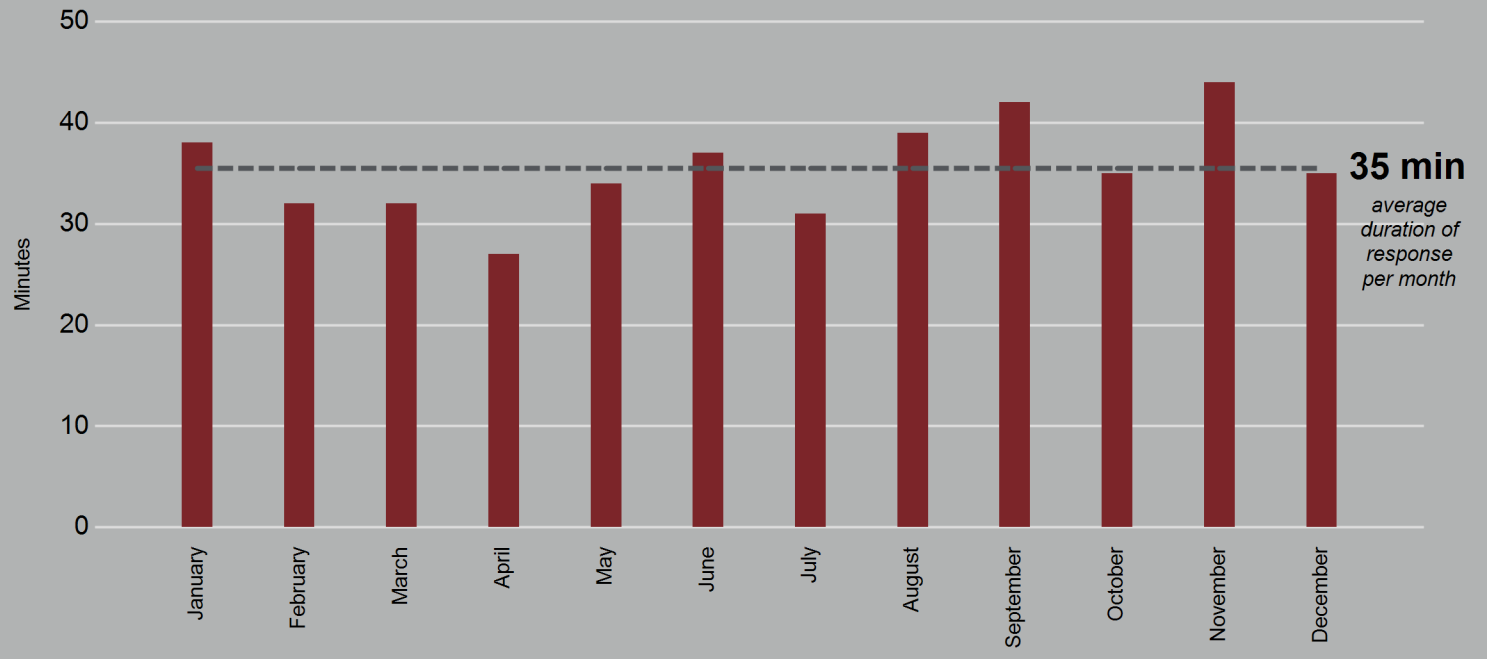
The TMC dispatches and tracks all Highway Helper activity. This section contains statistical and operational data of Highway Helper activities.

Types of incidents responses



This chart provides an overview of the number and types of Highway Helper responses.

Average duration of reponse



BY THE NUMBERS

16,365
HIGHWAY HELPER RESPONSES

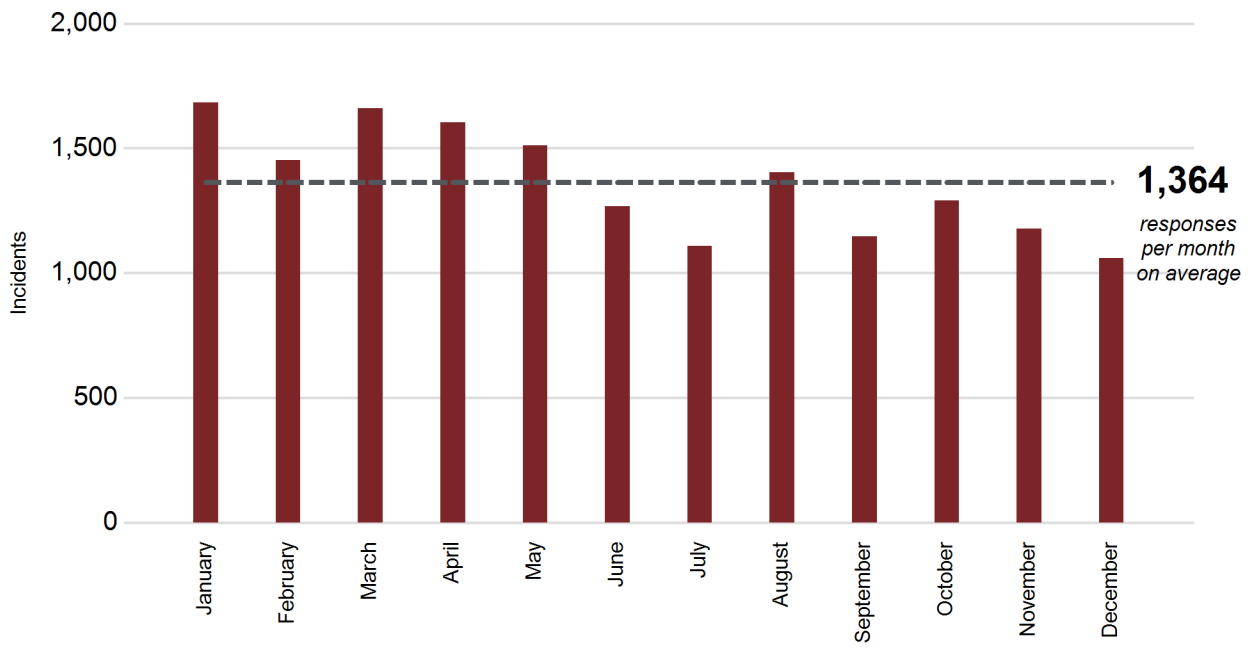
2,616
DEBRIS REMOVAL RESPONSES

4,260
SERVICES PERFORMED FOR THE MOTORIST (FUEL, FLAT TIRE, JUMP START, DIRECTIONS, ETC)

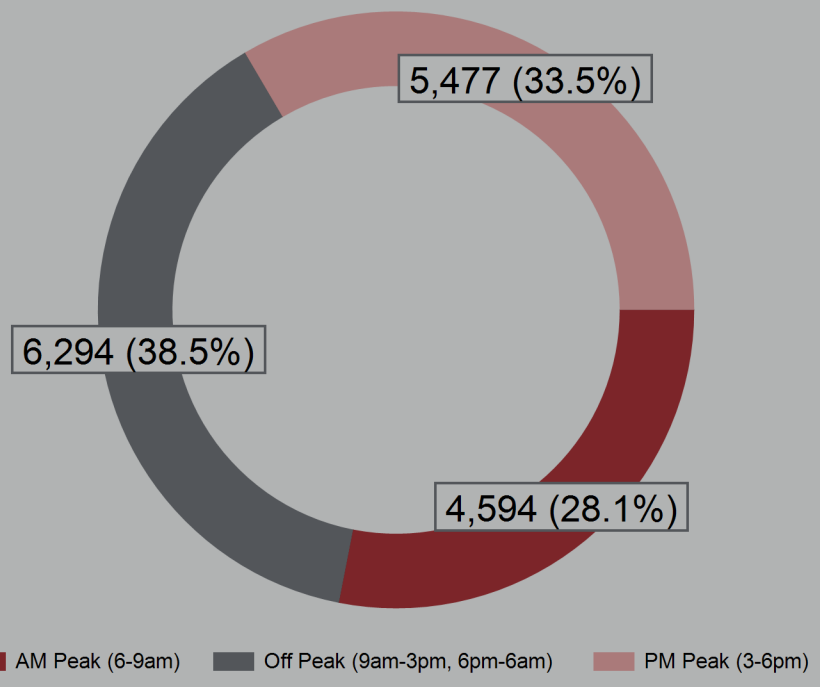
38% RESPONSES OCCURRED DURING OFF PEAK HOURS

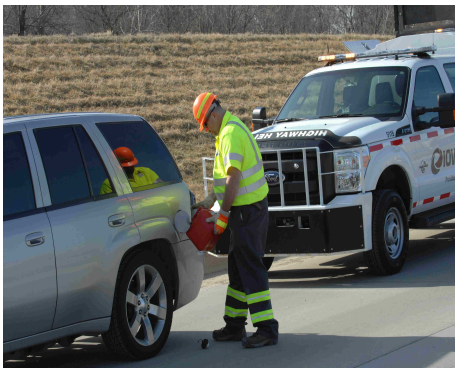
The most Highway Helper responses during 2018 occurred in January.

Responses by month



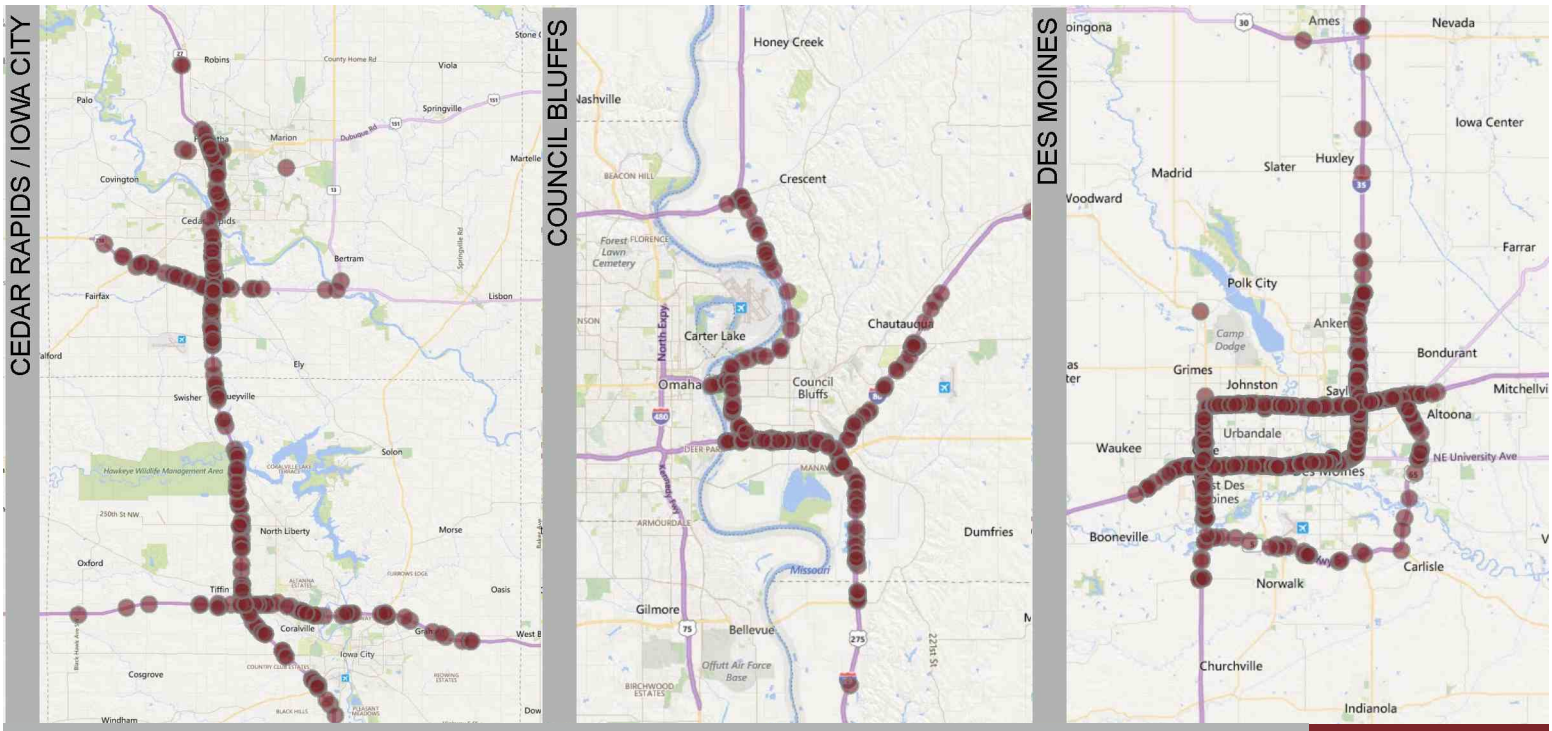
Responses by time of day



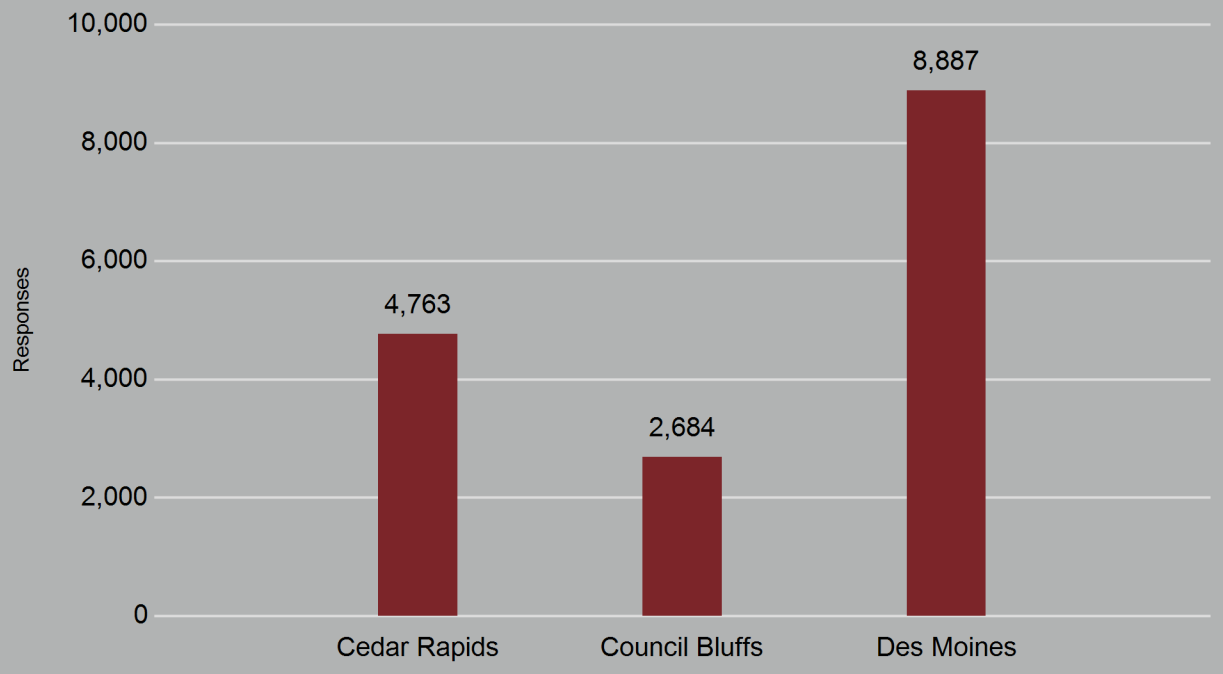


HIGHWAY HELPER

All responses by operational area



All responses by operational area



Highway Helper trucks are dispatched in three operational areas from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, including some holidays and special events.

BY THE NUMBERS

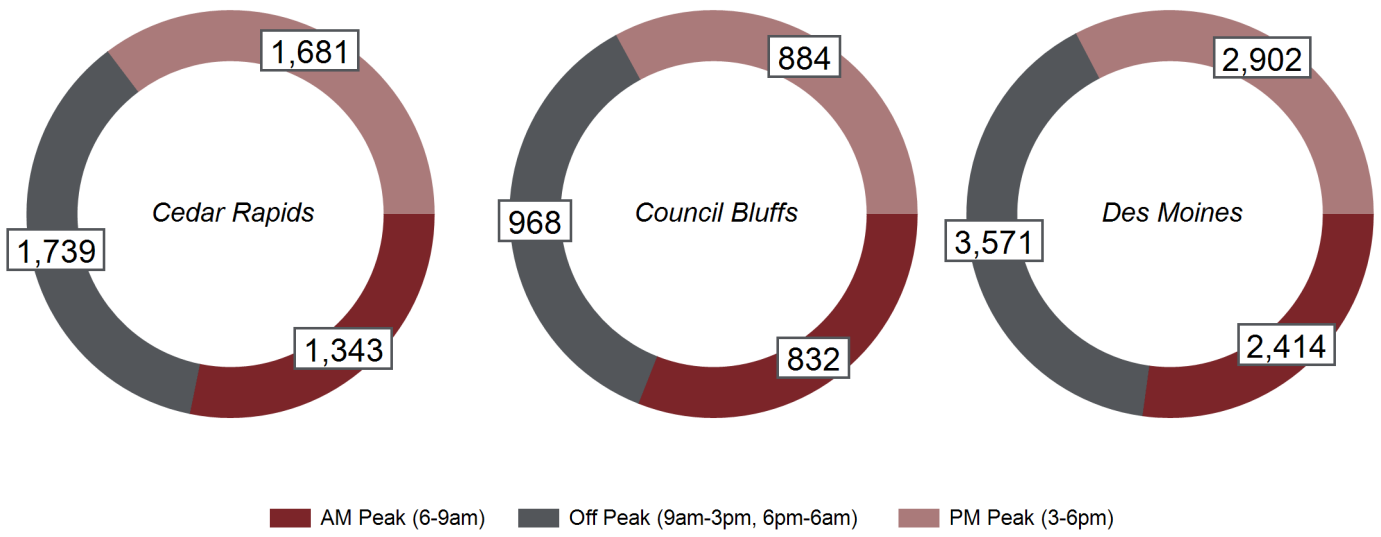
28%
RESPONSE DURING AM PEAK HOURS

33%
RESPONSE DURING PM PEAK HOURS

8,887
HIGHWAY HELPER RESPONSES IN DES MOINES

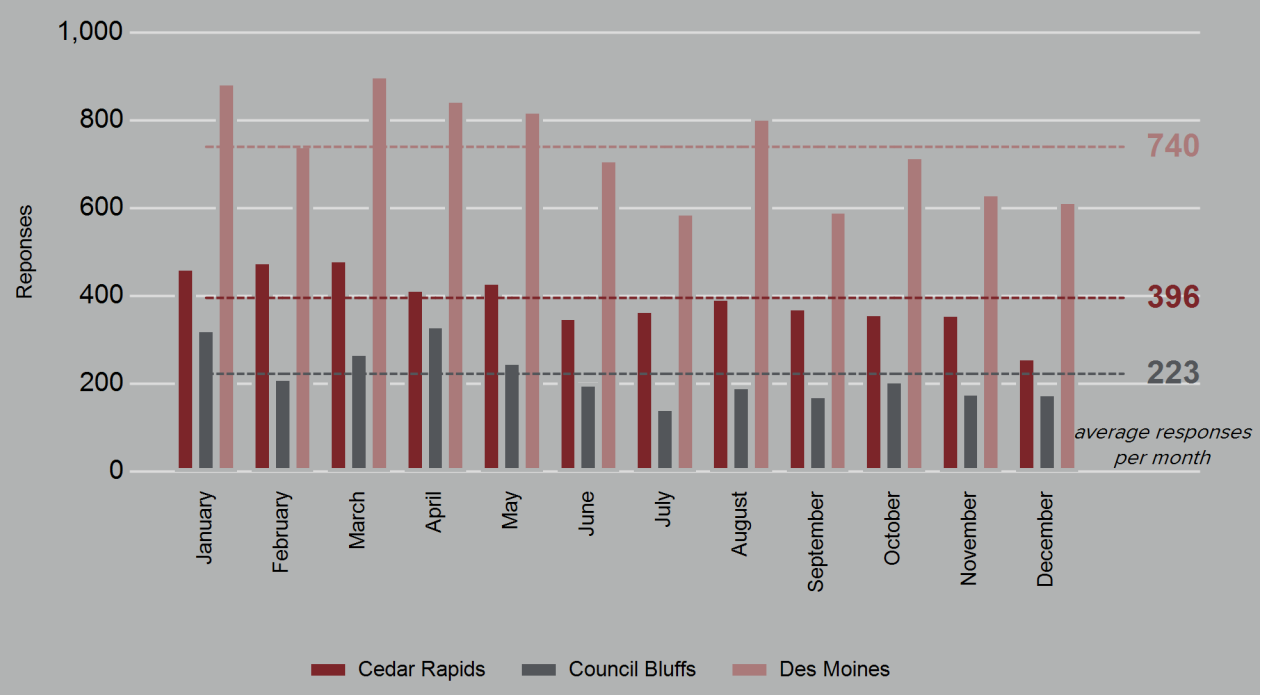
1,683 RESPONSES IN JANUARY

All responses by time of day by operational area



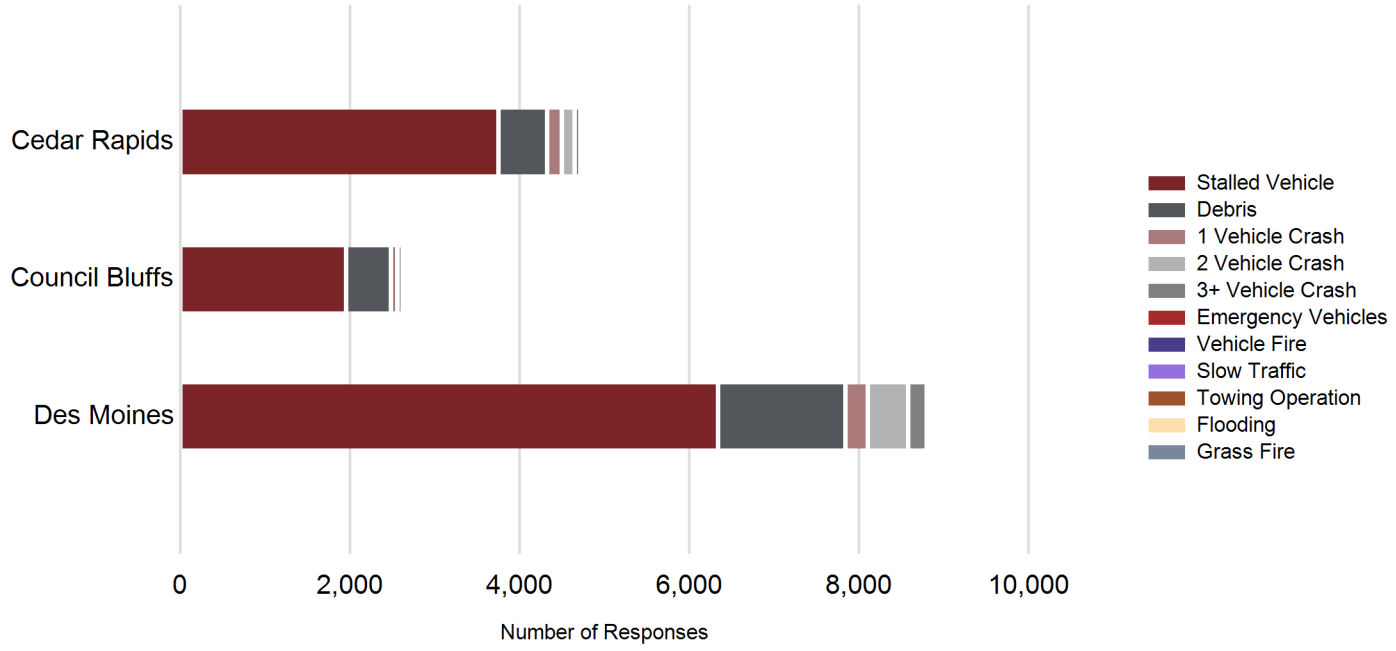
The Highway Helper service operates twelve months a year with higher responses during winter months. Additional service is provided for special events, such as the Iowa State Fair.

All responses by month by operational area

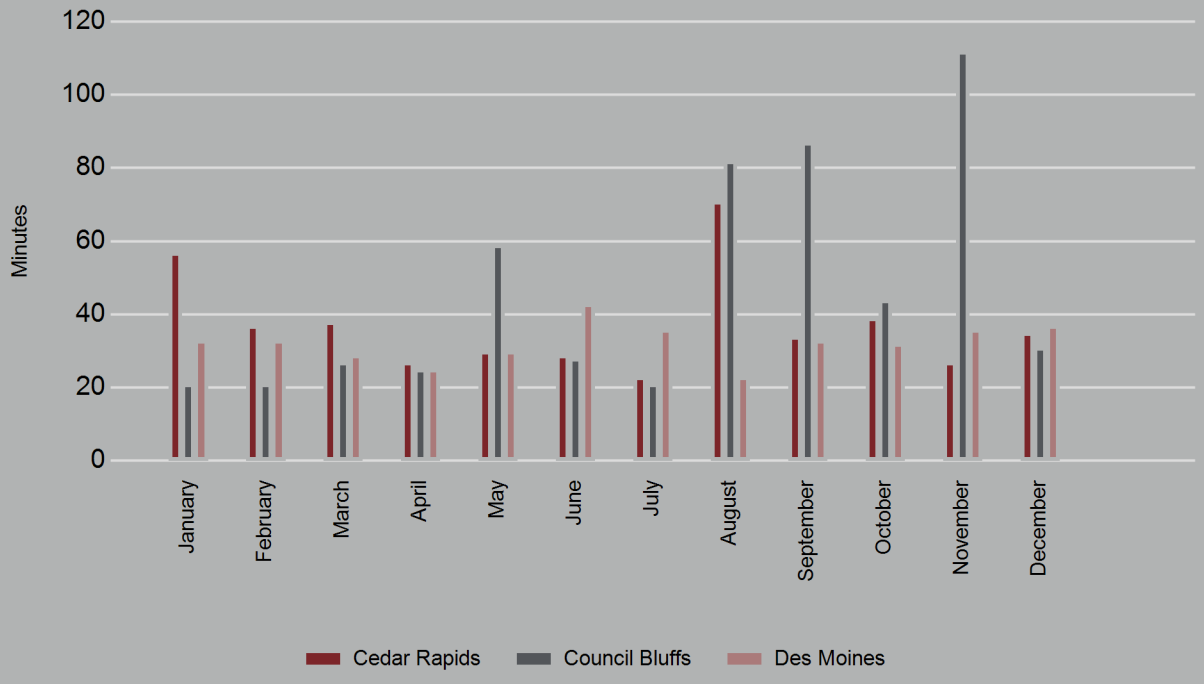


HIGHWAY HELPER

Types of incident response by operational area



Average duration of response by operational area



The duration of the Highway Helper response is determined by tracking the time between when the Highway Helper truck arrived on scene to the time departed.

BY THE NUMBERS

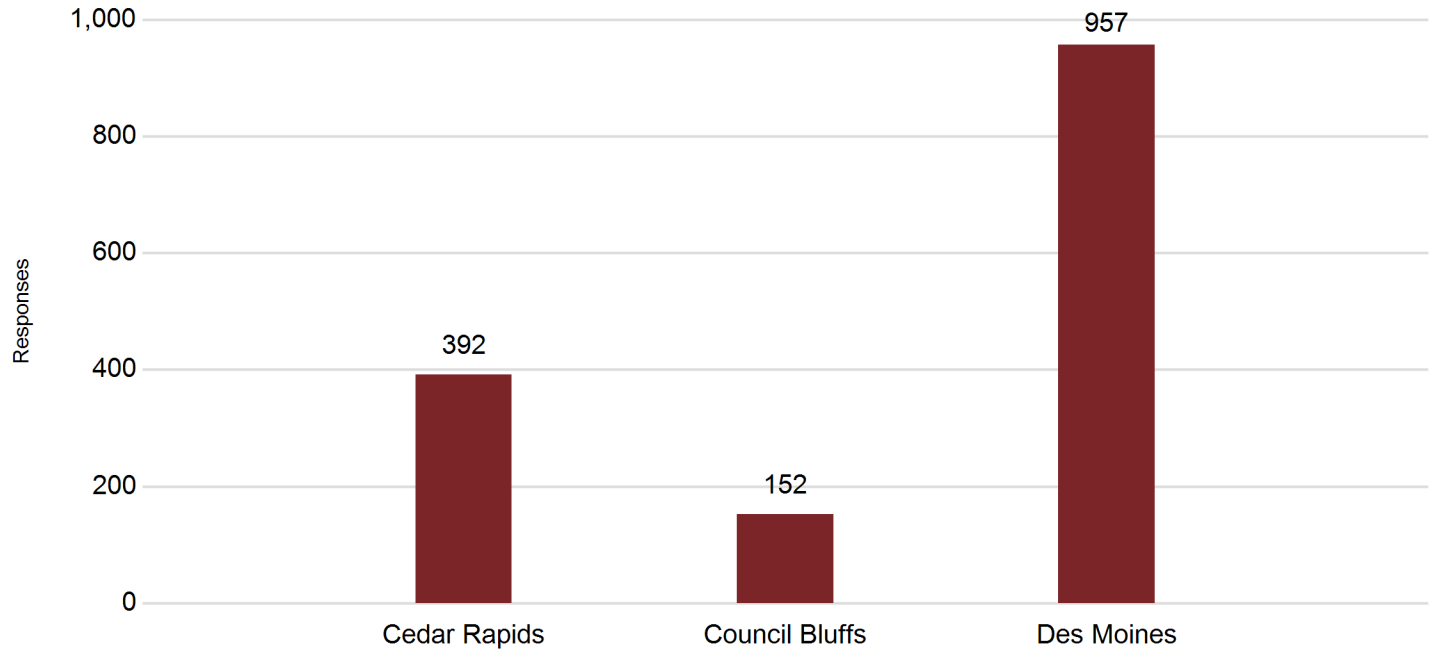
1,042
RESPONSES TO LANE BLOCKING INCIDENTS

35 min
AVERAGE RESPONSE DURATION

74%
RESPONSES TO STALLED VEHICLES

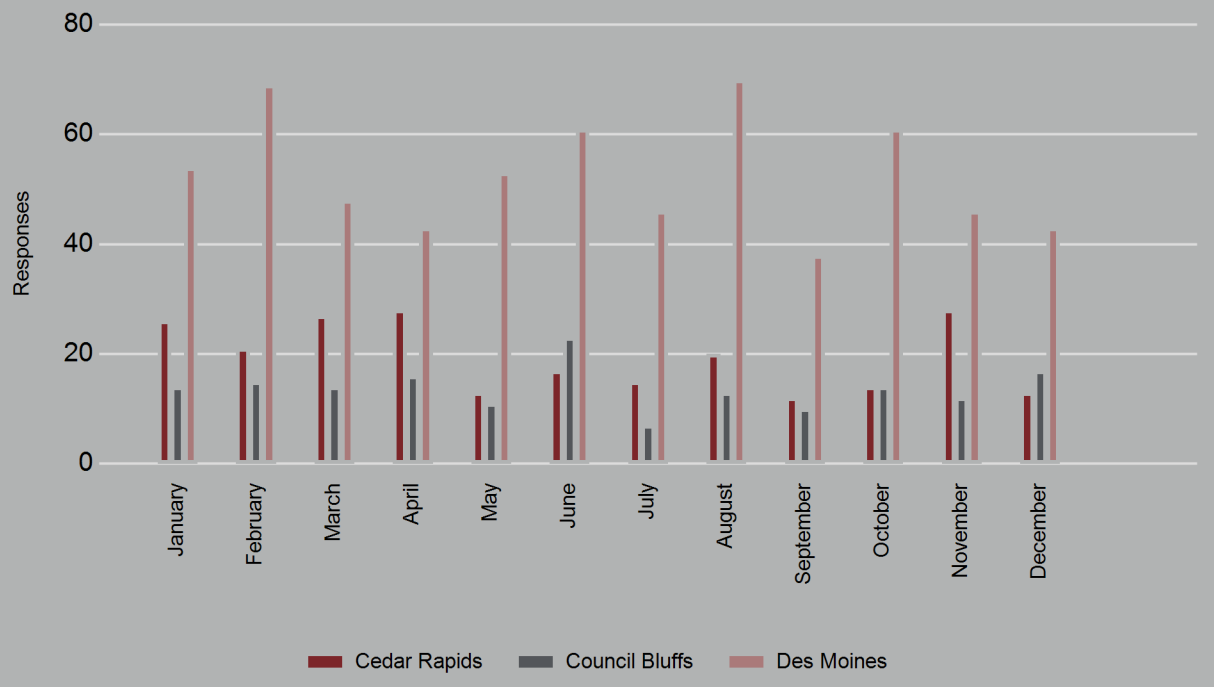
1,507 RESPONSES TO CRASHES

Responses to crashes only by operational area



Highway Helpers assist with lane blockages to achieve faster clearance times and protect responders.

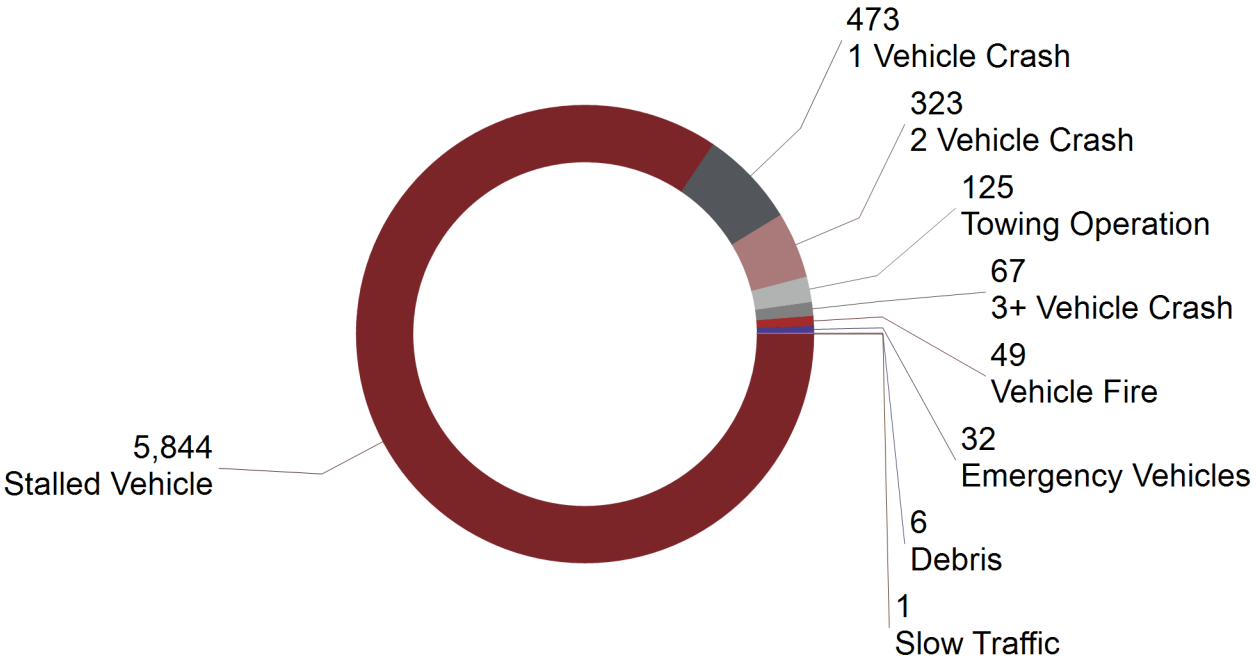
Responses to lane blockage incidents



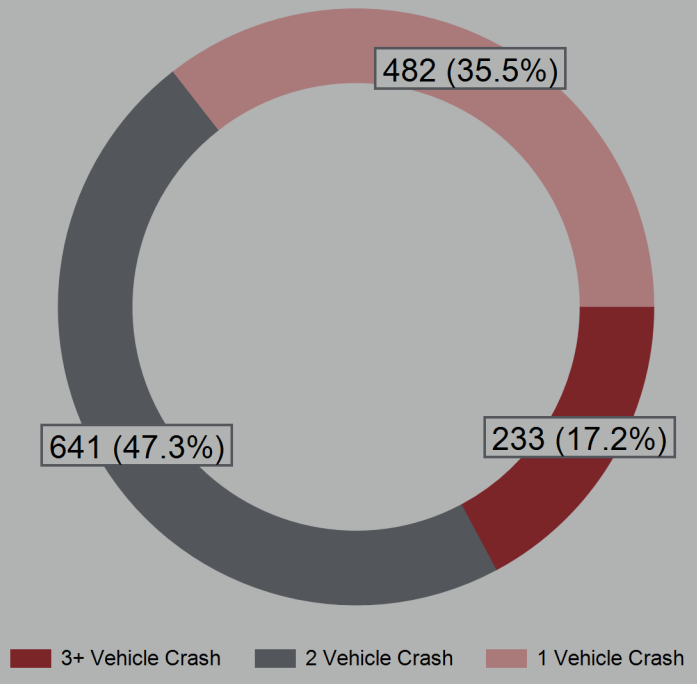
FREIGHT

Incidents involving freight transportation are specifically tracked as they are reported to the TMC. This section contains statistical and operational data regarding freight.

Types of incidents involving a semi



Number of vehicles involved in semi related crashes



Incidents involving a semi have the potential to be more impactful on traffic since they are a larger vehicle which may take additional time to clear. The TMC specifically tracks when an incident or crash involves a semi to better understand these traffic impacts.

BY THE NUMBERS

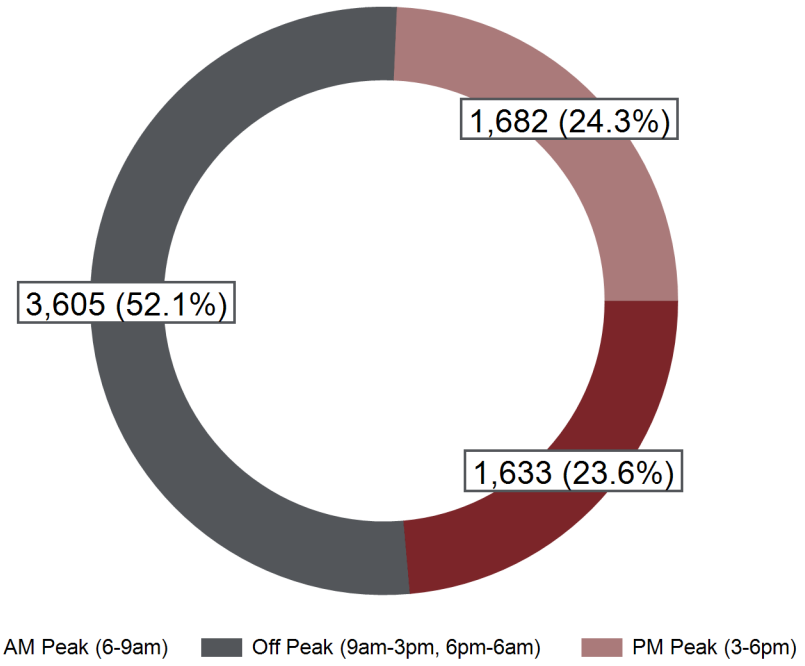
212
RAIL INCIDENTS

138
SEMI ROLLOVERS

13 HAZMAT SPILLS

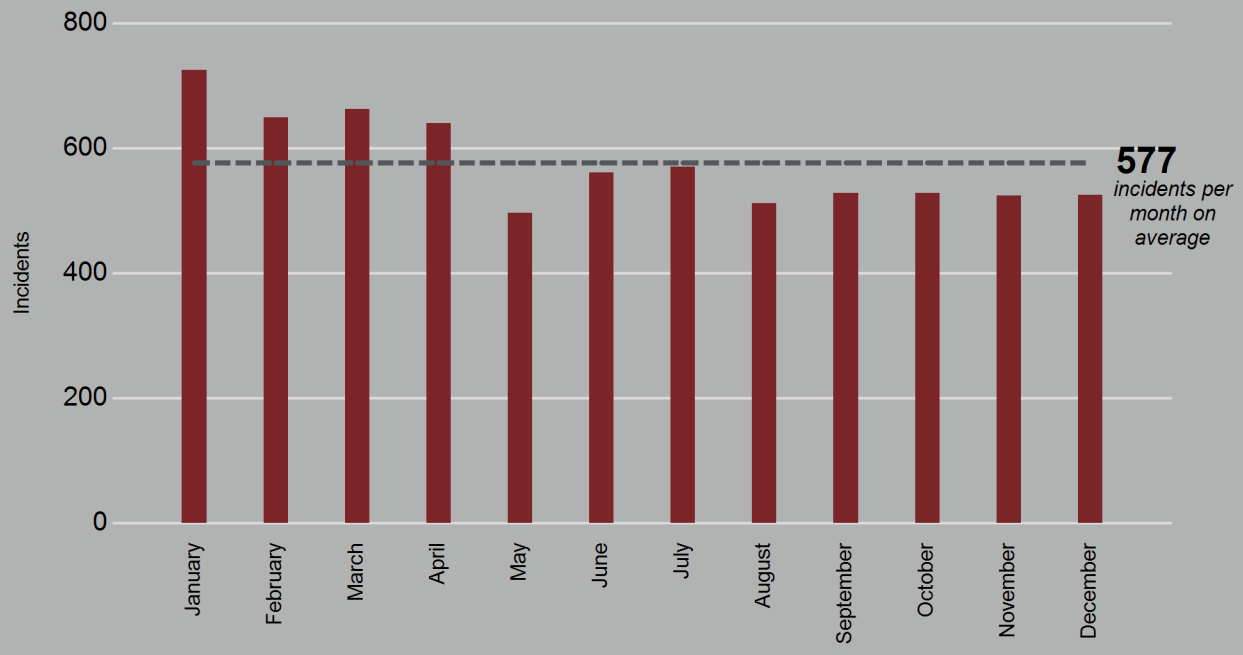
2 hr 12 m
AVERAGE CLEARANCE TIME FOR LANE BLOCKING INCIDENTS INVOLVING A TRACTOR TRAILER

Freight incidents by time of day



Freight incidents are incidents involving semis or railroads.

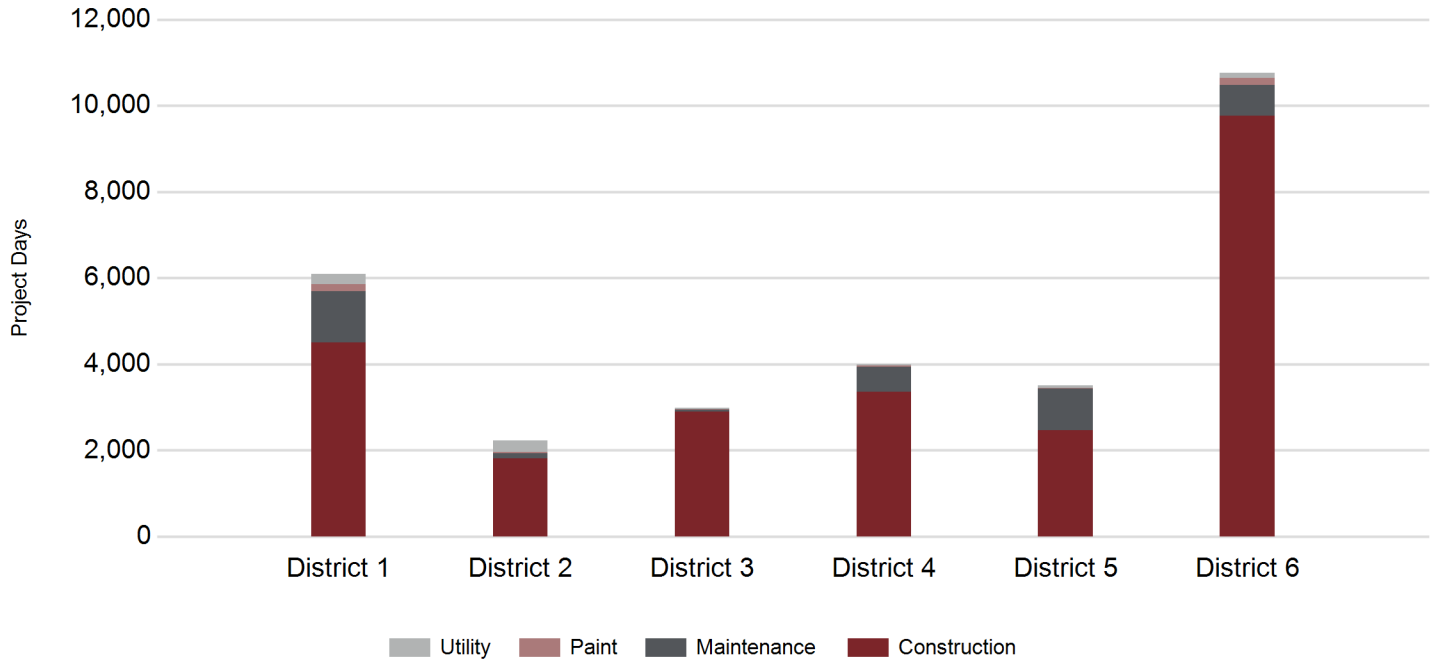
Freight incidents by month



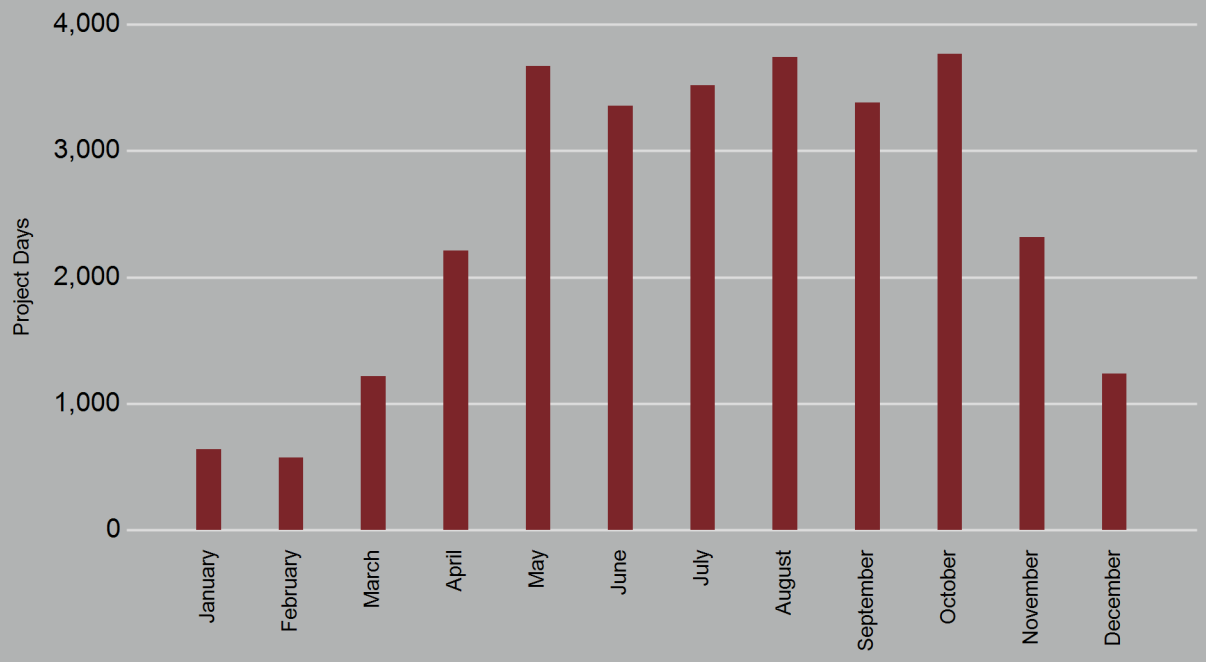
WORK ZONES

Work zone activity is tracked by the TMC for each change in a work zone, not a project as a whole. An event is logged into the system for each work zone configuration change or lane closure on a project.

Work zone project days by district



Number of work zone project days by month



The data is used by the TMC to provide messages on the DMS, manage work zone contact information, and situational awareness.

BY THE NUMBERS

122
WORK ZONE INCIDENTS

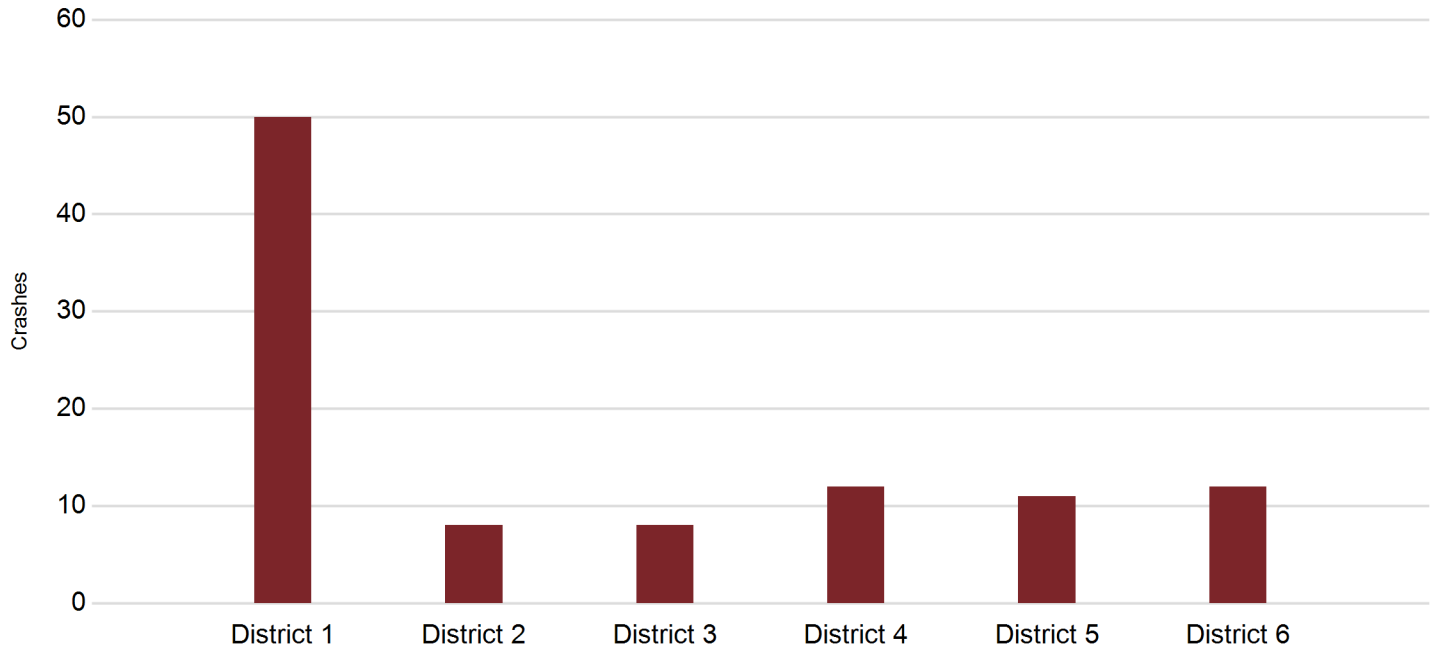
771
SLOWDOWNS DETECTED

29,632
TOTAL ROADWORK PROJECT DAYS

37 INTELLIGENT WORK ZONES

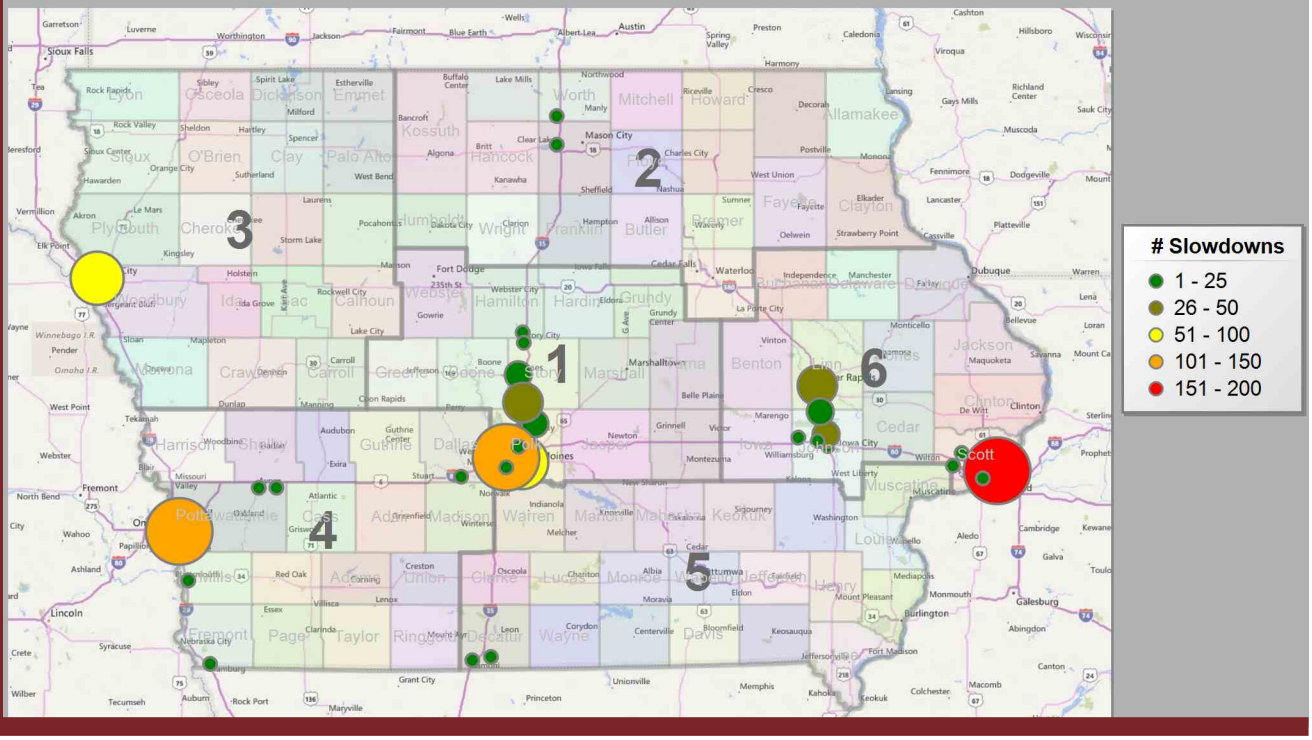
Work zone crashes by district

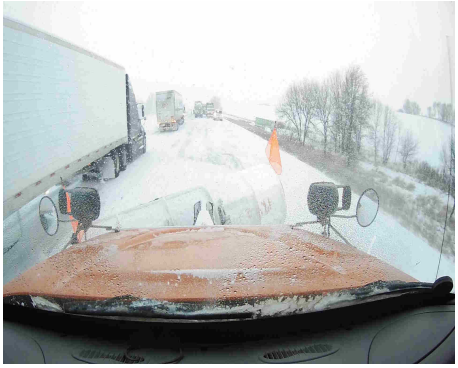
** As reported to the TMC*



Construction slowdowns

Construction slowdowns are tracked and measured by vehicle detection in intelligent work zones.

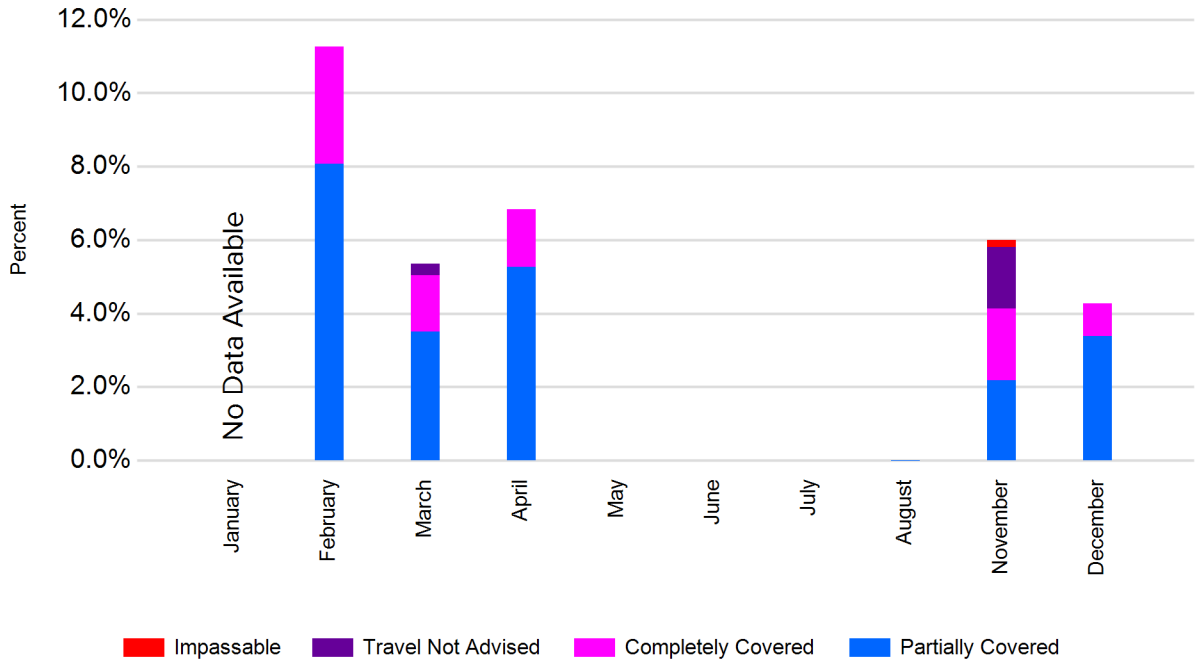




WEATHER

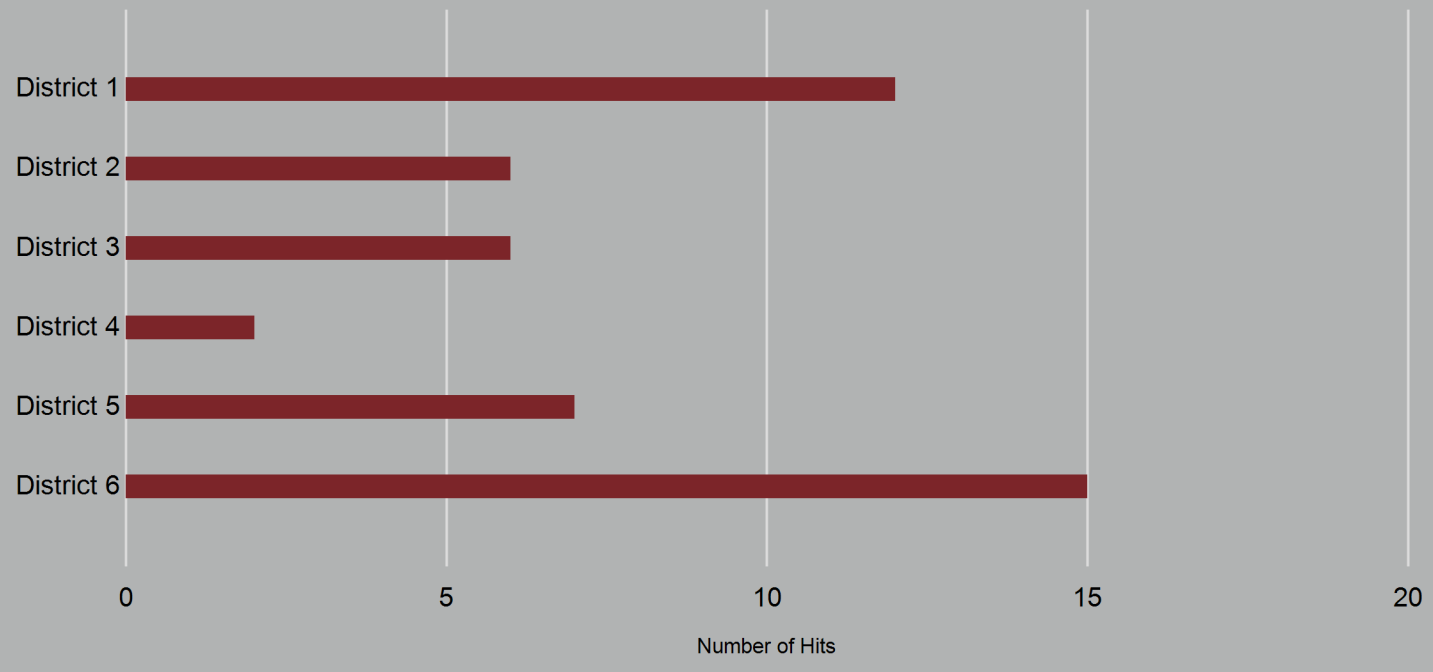
Weather can have a serious impact on the safety and mobility of roadway users. The TMC responds to dynamic conditions by using technology and communication tools to assist partners in restoring the transportation system to normal conditions.

Road conditions by type



This chart displays the percentage of time during the month over all segments where adverse winter weather conditions were reported.

Snow plow hits per district



BY THE NUMBERS

39
WINTER EVENTS

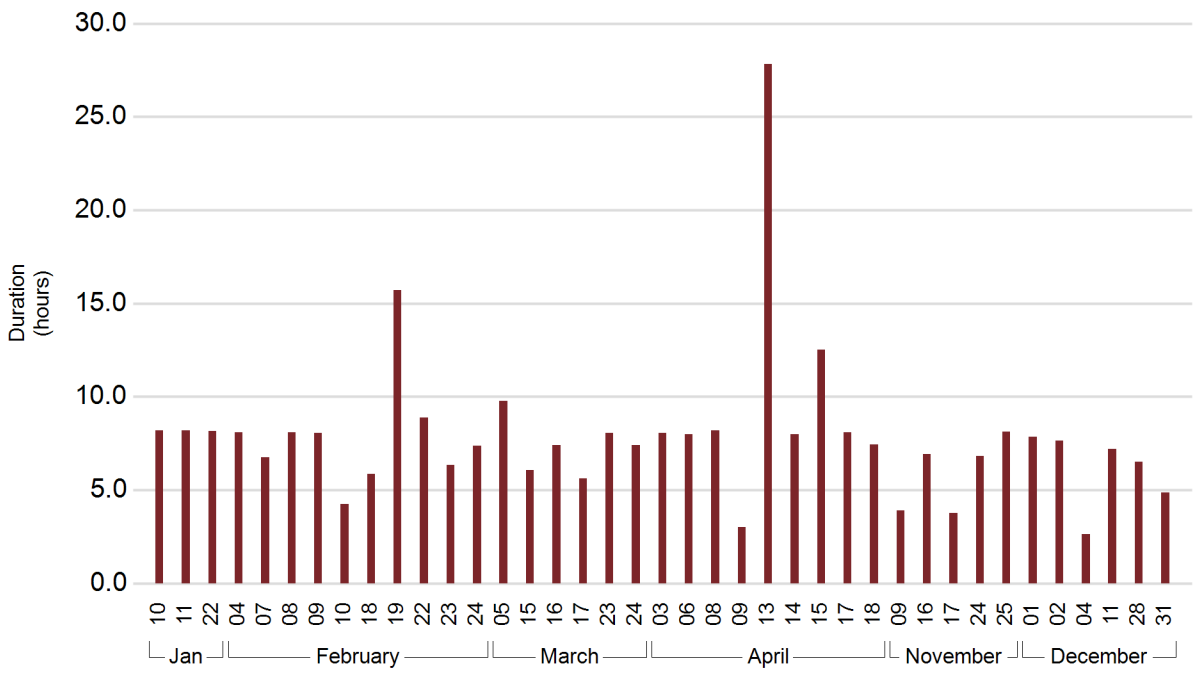
156
FLOODING EVENTS

231 INCIDENTS DURING WINTER EVENTS

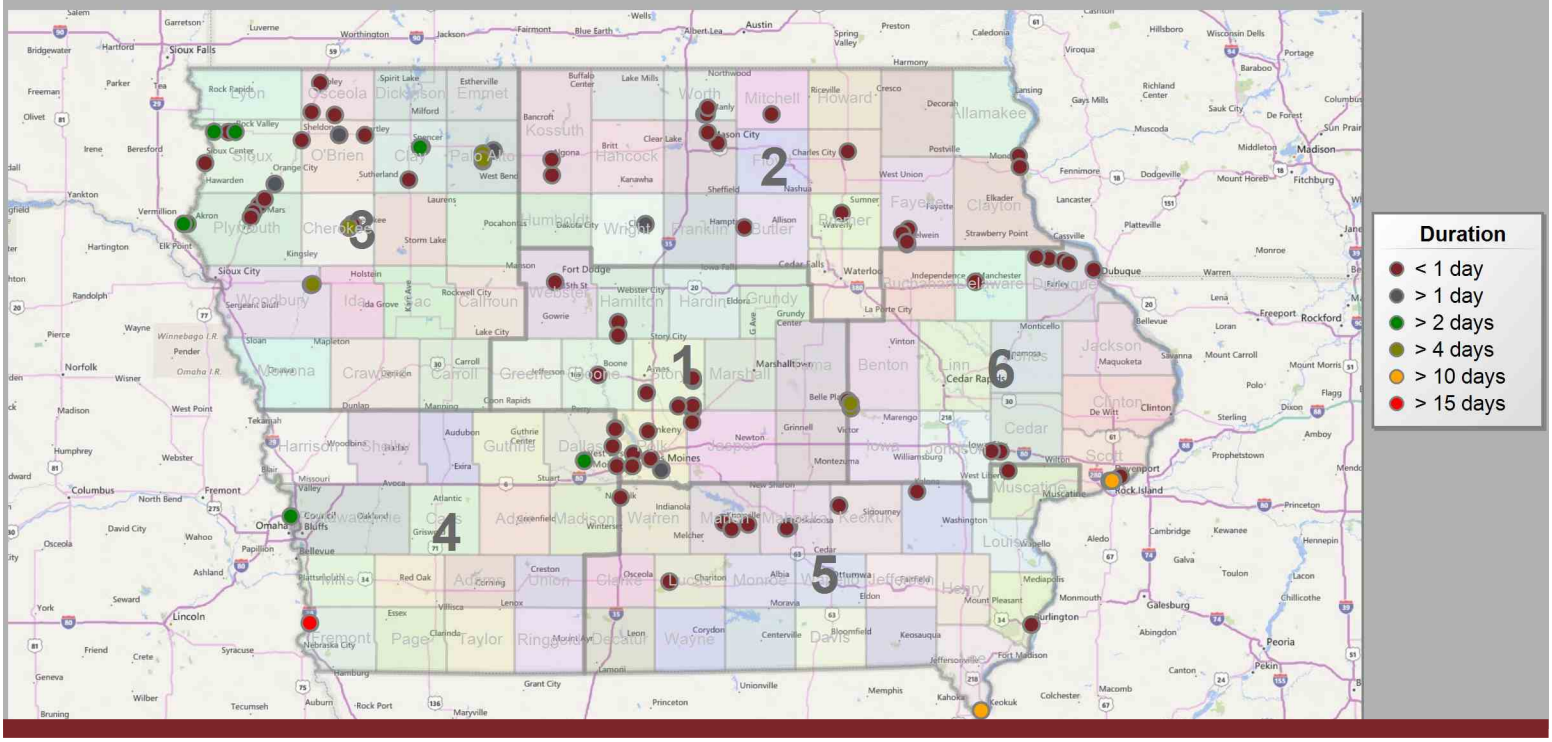
1 day 12 hr 44 m
AVERAGE DURATION OF FLOODING CLOSURES

These winter events were determined based on a Winter Warning or Advisory where at least one crash has been reported to the TMC within the affected counties.

Winter events



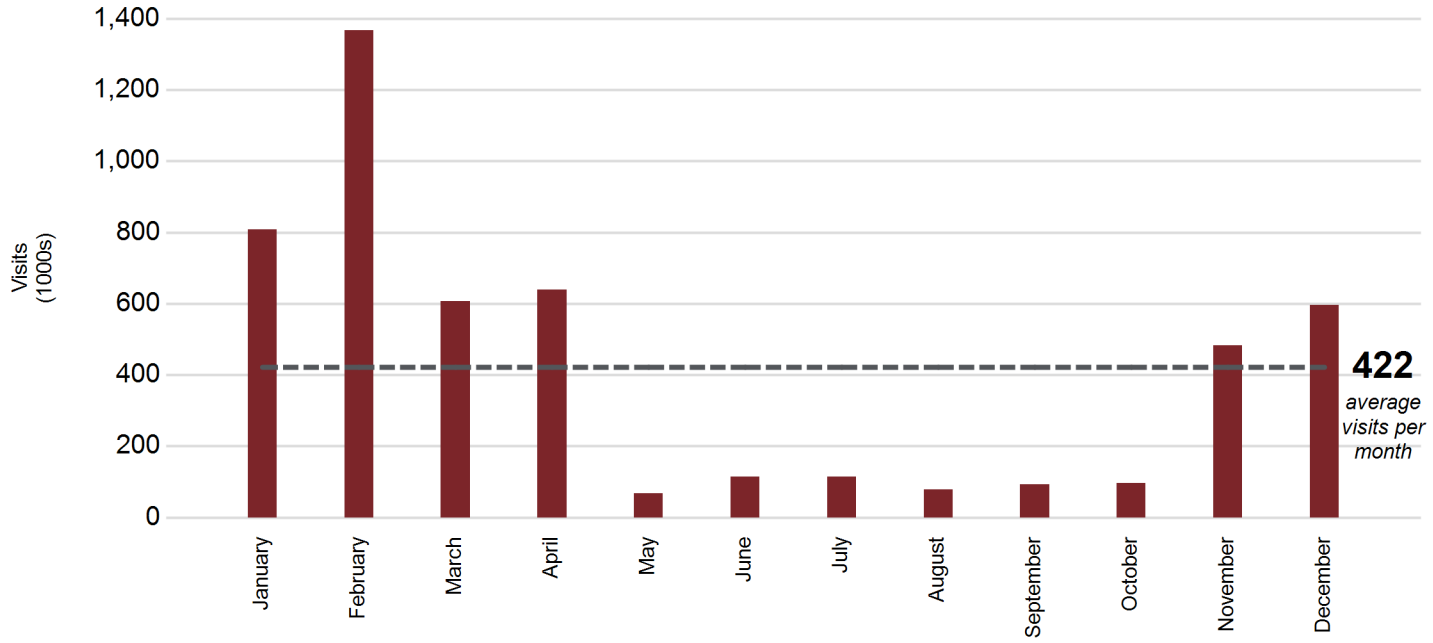
Flooding events resulting in a lane closure



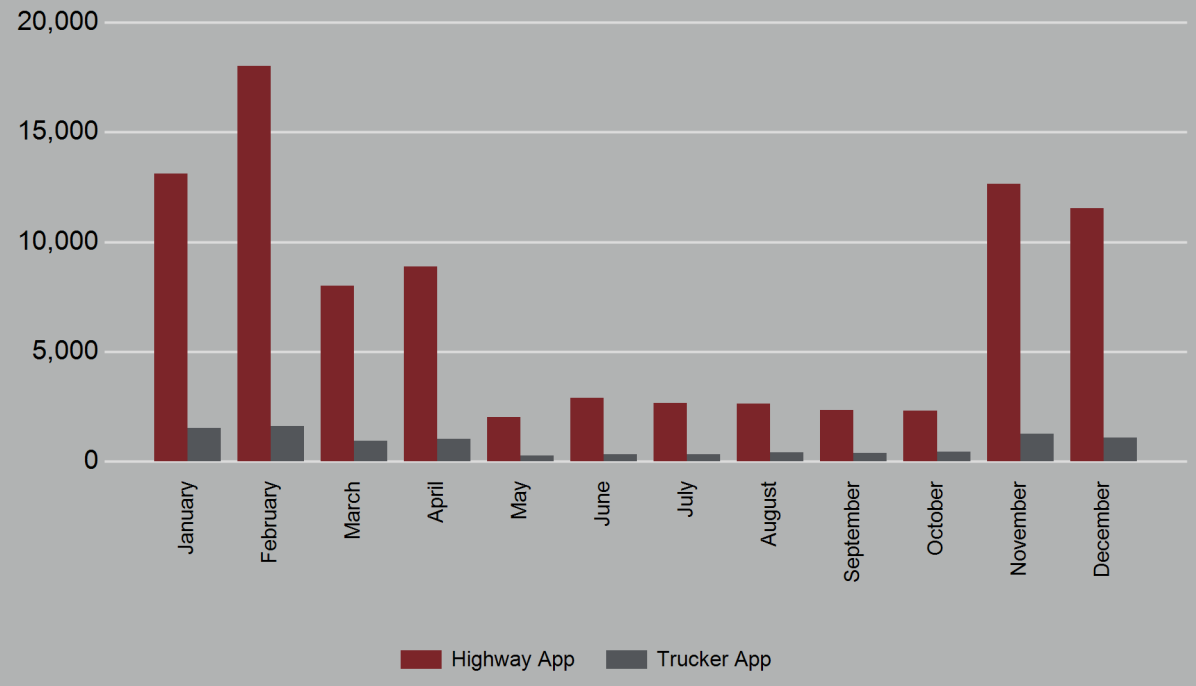
COMMUNICATION

Communication technologies play a crucial role in traffic operations. Effective traffic management, largely stemming from the TMC, relies on efficient communications and information systems to provide accessible guidance to the traveling public.

Visits to 511 website



511 mobile application downloads



Two separate 511 mobile applications are available for download. The Highway app includes traffic events, speeds, cameras, and winter road conditions while the Trucker app focuses on data pertinent to truck travel, such as weigh station locations and restrictions.

BY THE NUMBERS

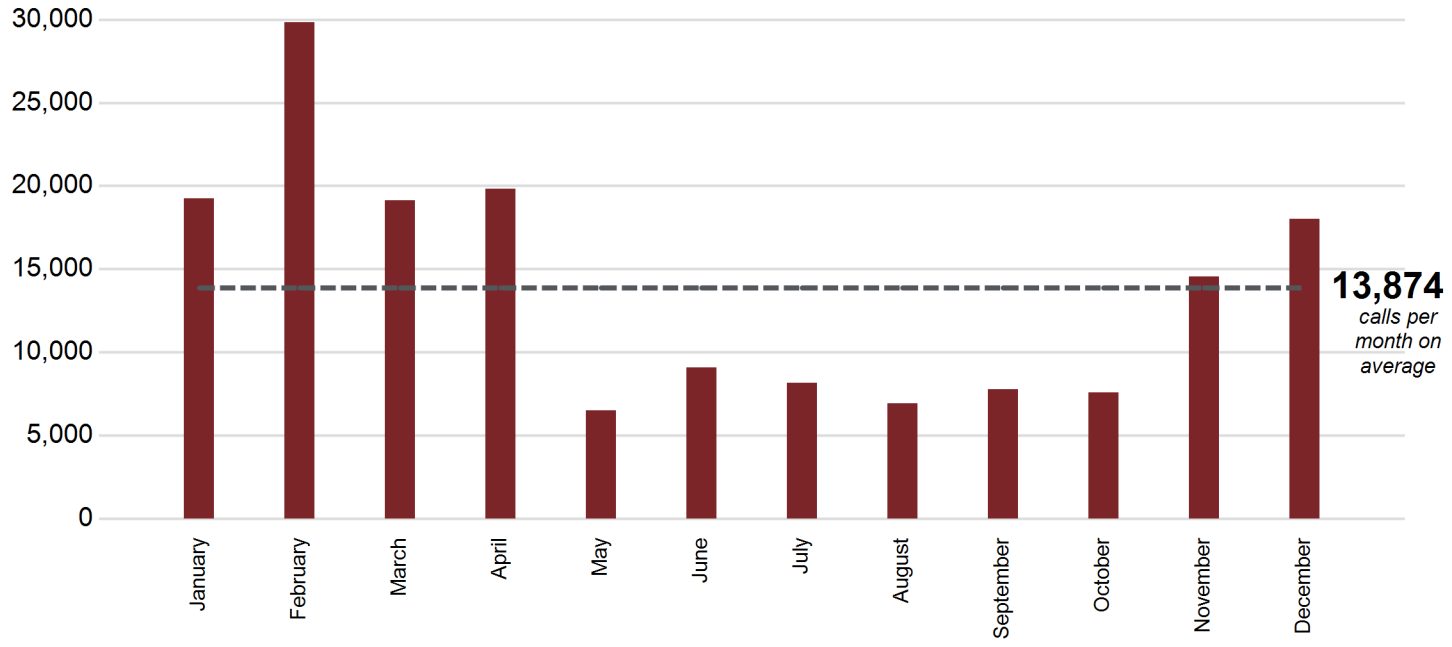
96,636
511 APP DOWNLOADS

166,487
PHONE CALLS TO 511

5,062,506
VISITS TO 511 TRAVELER INFORMATION WEBSITE (ALL VERSIONS)

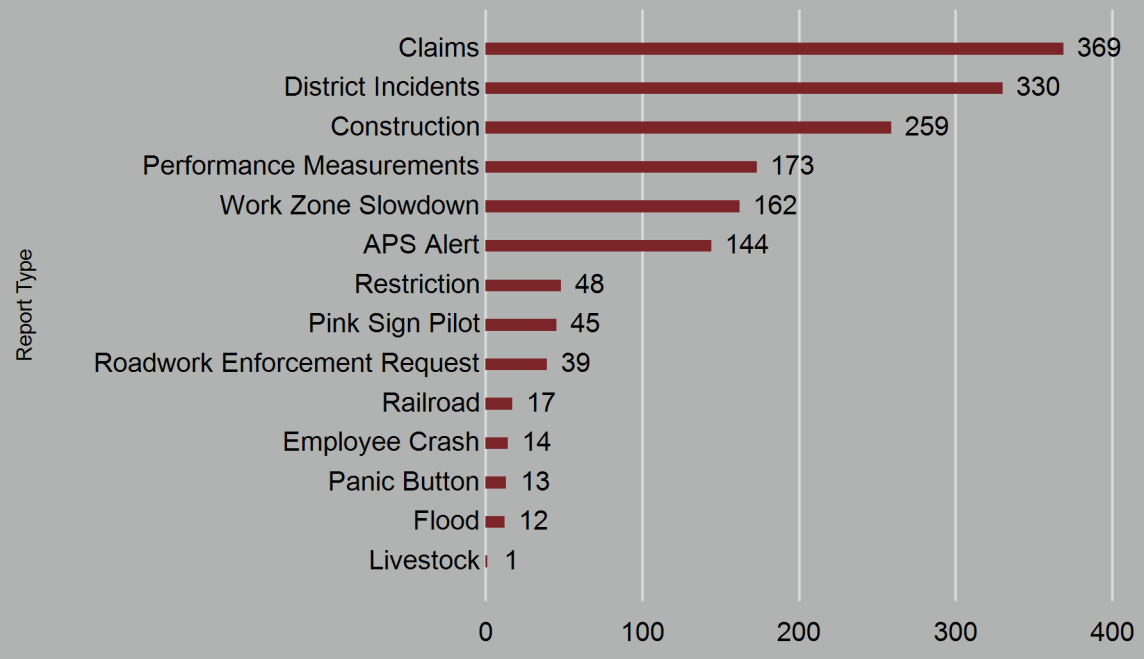
1,626 TMC DATA REPORTS GENERATED

511 phone calls by month



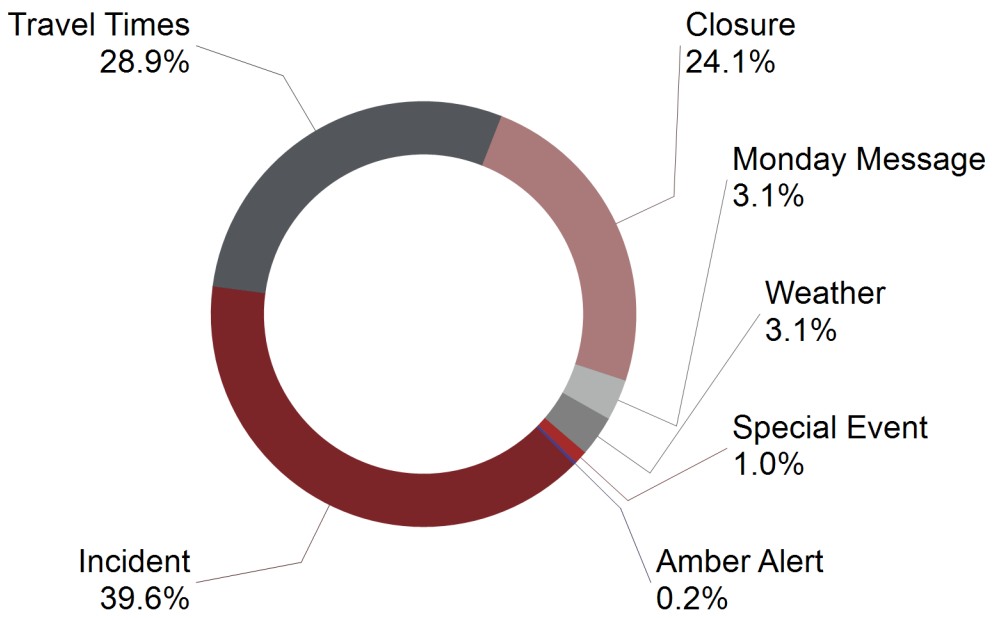
The information tracked by the TMC is shared through multiple reports with internal and external stakeholders.

TMC data reports generated by type



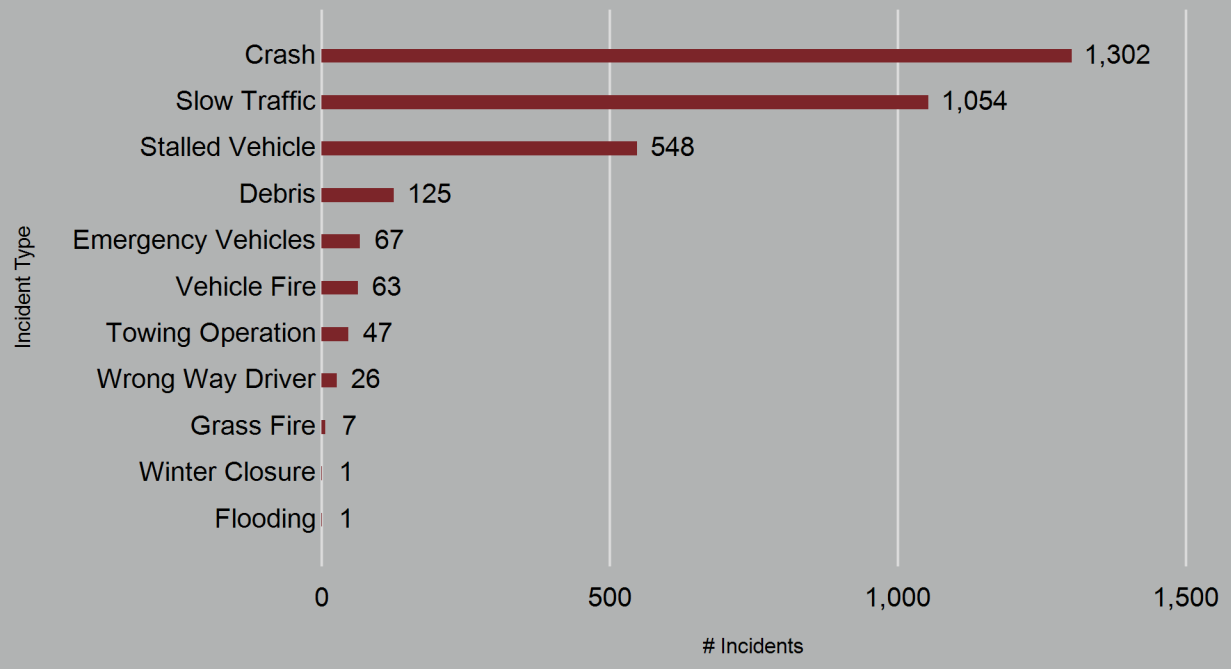
COMMUNICATION

DMS messages by type



Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) are operated by the TMC and the message content, duration and types are tracked.

DMS messages by incident type



This chart provides an overview of the number of unique DMS messages posted for different incident types utilized by the TMC.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,241
INCIDENTS UTILIZING DMS MESSAGES

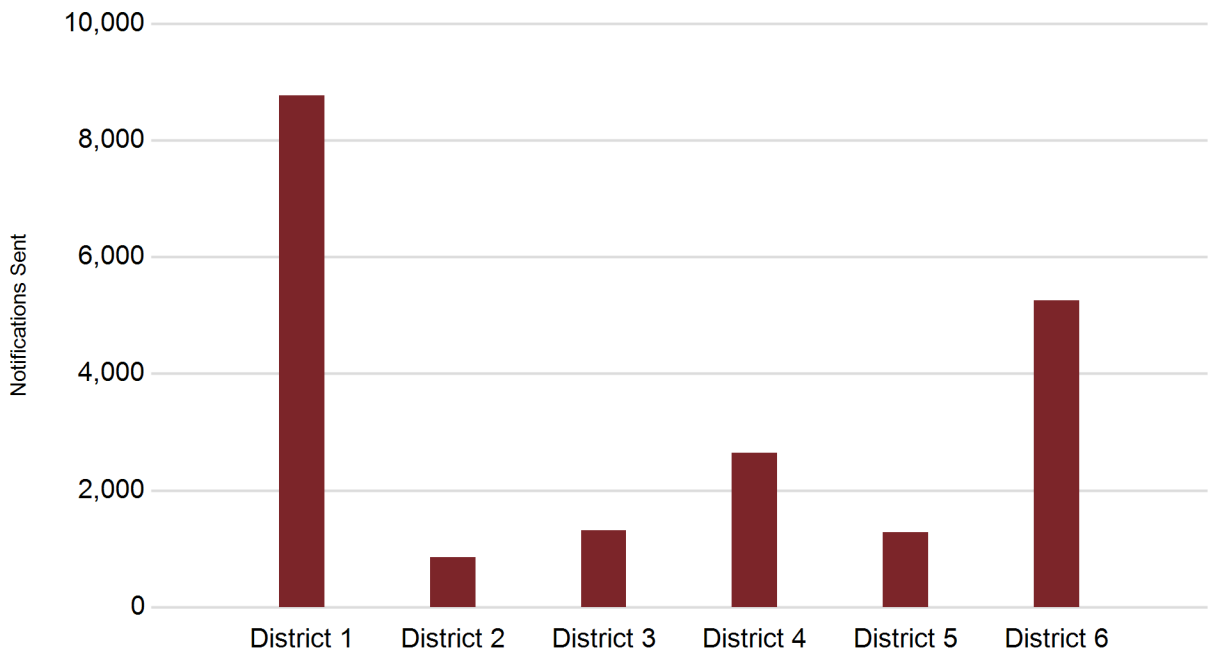
20,622
EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS SENT

80% EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS SENT ON WEEKDAYS

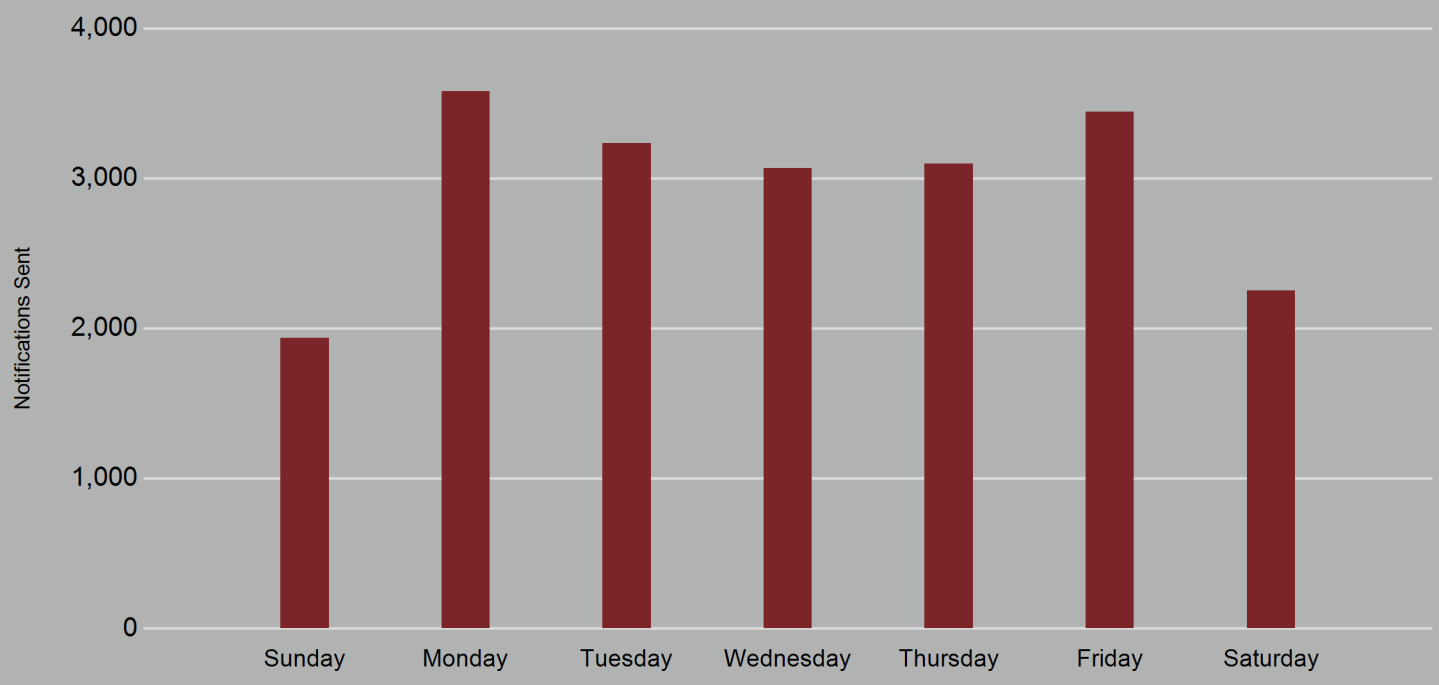
40%
UNIQUE DMS MESSAGES RELATED TO INCIDENTS

Emergency Incident Notifications (EINS) are e-mail alerts sent by the TMC for more impactful events on the transportation system.

Email notifications sent by district



Email notifications sent by weekday



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