MODULE 8: TSMO and Incident Management
Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

- Planned and coordinated process to detect, respond and clear incidents and crashes quickly and safely
- Multi-disciplinary activity involving DOTs & emergency service providers
- TIM reduces the duration of traffic incidents (30%-50%)
  - Reduces congestion
  - Improves reliability
  - Improves safety - reduces secondary crashes
Principles of Good TIM

- Promote the safety of motorists, crash victims, and incident responders.
- Reduce the time for incident detection and verification.
- Reduce response time (the time for response personnel and equipment to arrive at the scene).
- Exercise proper and safe on-scene management of personnel and equipment, while keeping as many lanes, as possible, open to traffic.
- Conduct an appropriate response, investigation, and safe clearing of an incident.
- Reduce clearance time (the time required for the incident to be removed from the roadway).
- Provide timely and accurate information to the public that enables them to make informed choices.
- Get traffic moving again as soon as possible after a partial or complete roadway closure while managing the affected traffic until normal conditions are restored.
National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training Program

- TIM Training is an interactive, hands on training bringing together police, firefighters, tow operators, medical personnel and other incident responders.
- Over 277,000 responders trained.
- Established a national network of TIM training champions.
- Foster relationship building both in-State and State-to-State.
- Institutionalizing the training - Public safety academies in 20 States have adopted training.
Safety Service Patrols and Incident Response Truck

Part of TIM Program
- Provides specially equipped response trucks and trained operators
- Assists stranded motorists and clearing debris
- Provides traffic control during traffic incidents

Example Benefits
- Cleared 80% of incidents within 10 minutes
- Average Benefit/Cost Ratio of 12.4:1
- Favorable public response
Training

TIM training areas:

- TIM within agency or company
- Other responders’ roles or existence
- Specific procedural operations
Equipment

Some common equipment used in TIM events:
- High-visibility safety apparel/vehicle markings
- Vehicle-Mounted Push Bumpers
- Quick Clearance Using Fire Apparatus
- End-of-Queue Advance Warning Systems

Strategies for rapidly/efficiently mobilizing equipment:
- Personnel/equipment resource lists
- Equipment staging areas/pre-positioned equipment
MOUs

Successful TIM programs require **multiagency coordination** making it important to:

- Meet regularly with partner agencies and stakeholders
- Establish a joint vision or mission
- Formally document all agreements with memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed by all participants
TIM Costs & Benefits

- In the TOP-BC, the number of crashes is predicted to change for any strategy that results in a change in VMT, or strategies that result in a change to the volume/capacity level of freeway facilities.
- Improved **safety** of motorists, crash victims, and incident responders.
  - 10% reduction in fatality crashes for incident detection/verification strategies due to faster response times
- Timely and accurate information to the public, enabling them to make informed choices
  - No change to default crash rates, but economic and environmental savings?
- Faster return to normal conditions; **reduced traffic impacts** during partial or complete closure