CONTROLLING THE BACKUP AND RESTORING TRAFFIC FLOW

CORY SKOCZEN – SAFETY SERVICES MANAGER

Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
OUTLINE

• What is Ohio TIM?
• History of TIM program
• Dynamics of the Ohio Turnpike
• Who responds…
• Developing a unified response
• Monitoring/Notification
• Secondary crashes
• Resuming traffic flow
• Statistics
• Proof by the numbers
WHAT IS OHIO TIM?

- **Ohio TIM** is the state traffic incident management program composed of several agencies, including ODOT, Ohio Turnpike, local and state law enforcement agencies, Fire, EMA, and towing and recovery services. These agencies work together to safely and efficiently clear traffic incidents on Ohio highways.
PROGRAM HISTORY

• The program kicked off in 2003
• From 2003-2017 the program was called “Ohio QuickClear”
• Training is conducted in a multi-discipline setting
Ohio Tim on the Ohio Turnpike......

- 241 Mile Toll Road crossing through northern Ohio (I-80, I-90, I-76)
- Runs east and west through Ohio between Indiana Toll Road and Pennsylvania Turnpike
- Controlled Access (center median wall)
PRIMARY RESPONDERS TO AN INCIDENT

- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- Fire Department
- Emergency Medical Service
- Disabled Vehicle Service
- Ohio Turnpike Maintenance Personnel
DEVELOPING A UNIFIED RESPONSE

- **The Ohio Turnpike has an agreement or contract with every agency that responds to incidents (excluding mutual aid responders)**
- **Ohio TIM training is offered and conducted with all responders**
- **Regional meetings are conducted with all disciplines to discuss issues and best practices**
MONITORING AND NOTIFICATION

- Incident response Vehicles w/ arrow board
- Large truck w/ TMA and message board
- Portable changeable message boards
- Communication with state and local partners
- Internal TIMs Team
- Waze Community Partner
- Social media
REducing secondary crashes

Use PCMB’s and social media to:

- Suggest using alternate routes
- Notify motorists of slow moving/ stopped traffic

Soft diversion (Optional)
Hard diversion (Mandatory)
AVOIDING TOTAL CLOSURES
GETTING A LANE OPEN

- PRIORITY BY ALL RESPONDERS IS TO OPEN A LANE (OR SHOULDER) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- RELIEVING THE PRESSURE FROM THE BACKUP AND ALLOWING TRAFFIC TO FLOW CAN REDUCE THE CHANCES OF SECONDARY ACCIDENTS.
WORKING TOGETHER

• All emergency responders understand and work together towards a common goal.
• Each agency knows their role and purpose at the incident.
WORKING THROUGH LARGE SCALE INCIDENTS

- In some cases, clearing the scene promptly is not feasible.
- Hard diversions are imminent.
- Communication with local partners is vital.
- Consideration for entrapped traffic release.
PREPAREDNESS

• Identify alternative options when an air ambulance response is required
  • Landing zones off mainline roadway
  • Staging areas
STATISTICS

- 47% decline in hours of traffic backups between 2016 & 2017 on the Ohio Turnpike.
PROOF BY THE NUMBERS

Backups by Year / Duration

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>≤1 hour</th>
<th>&gt;1, ≤2 hours</th>
<th>&gt;2, ≤3 hours</th>
<th>&gt;3, ≤4 hours</th>
<th>&gt;4, ≤5 hours</th>
<th>&gt;5, ≤6 hours</th>
<th>&gt;6, ≤7 hours</th>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
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CORY SKOCZEN
SAFETY SERVICES MANAGER
OHIO TURNPIKE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
O: (440)971-2040
C: (440)821-3340
E: CORY.SKOCZEN@OHIOTURNPIKE.ORG