

Full Scale Traffic Incident Management Exercise

[Video](#)



Description

This innovation enables responders to train as they would respond to a major traffic incident. This training allows for all response disciplines and regional Traffic Incident Management Team members to be evaluated and receive feedback in effort to improve safety, response times, clearance times, communication, teamwork, processes and procedures. By staging a full crash scene with a commercial vehicle on its side, two passenger vehicles and live crash victims the scene is as real as it can be in a created controlled environment. Once the scene is staged, every move is treated as a real-life event from the time the call comes in notifying 911 of the incident, responders being dispatched, arriving on scene, assessing the crash victims, extrication and patient care, transporting the patients both by ground ambulance and medevac helicopters, traffic control and management, traveler information, crash investigation, vehicle recovery and clearing of the scene. This is done to apply what is taught in the National Traffic Incident Management Responder training and to train together as all response disciplines in a real but safe environment.

Benefit

This requires a major commitment by all participating agencies but it is considered an investment by all. For several years the Full Scale Traffic Incident Management Exercise has been adopted as a required exercise by the Greene County Emergency Management Agency. This reflects the level of importance placed on Traffic Incident Management and Responder Safety in our region. By conducting the training annually it gives all agencies an opportunity to ensure their new processes, procedures and equipment are applied, tested and understood by others. The latest full scale exercise had twenty-four agencies participating. This innovation saves money by reducing the time required to clear an incident. Collectively, the cost of crashes is in excess of \$299.5 billion and the cost of congestion is \$97.7 billion annually. Four traffic incident management teams have been created over the 113 miles of I-44 in the Southwest District. Teams meet quarterly to work on topics such as quarterly incidents, response & clearance times, upcoming events and Traffic Incident Management Training.

By training together in the real-life scenario, this enables responders to receive standardized training and practice fundamentals taught in the national training with the responders they work with on the roadway. The result is responders know each other better, what each other's roles and responsibilities are and collectively respond to and clear the incidents quicker without compromising safety.

A major issue in traffic incident management is knowing what role each responder plays and the capabilities of each responders and response agency. The traffic incident management teams have experienced the ability to simplify work through enhanced communication and advanced warning. Responders are trained how to vehicles should be parked on the scene to simplify and improve safety. By simplifying the on-scene activities together we are clearing the crash scenes much quicker. Also, having the established relationships enables issues to be resolved very efficiently.

Materials and Labor

For this innovation, labor hours are estimated 120 hours. The total cost of materials varies depending on the scale of the training. These trainings require use of all vehicles including fire trucks, heavy wreckers, DOT vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, hazmat vehicles, two helicopters plus the manhours costs can add up to be very costly. The cost of this training could be as high as \$100,000. There are no reoccurring costs since this training the will be conducted twice a year. The lessons learned have immediate and continued benefit and cost savings.

To further enhance the cost to benefit ratio we have added a component to the full scale exercises. This past exercise was staged early on a real roadway therefore the scene was very realistic. Prior to the full scale exercise the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Major Crash Team from Troop D facilitated crash reconstruction training with local and statewide law enforcement agencies. This had never been done and was extrodinarily productive.



For More Information Contact

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Additional information, photos or videos can be seen by accessing Innovations Challenge SharePoint page at: <http://sp/sites/tp/planpol/SitePages/InnovationHome.aspx>

