
Safety Service Patrol Idea-Sharing Network
Chat Room Transcript for Session I: Standard Operating Procedures
June 26, 2015 at 1:00 PM EDT

ATTENDANCE

Joseph Sagal: Good afternoon everyone, please take a moment and type your name and agency in the chat pod as you join today

Nathaniel Price: Nathaniel Price – FHWA

Wayne Emington: Wayne Emington (ME-DIV)

Jeff King: Jeff King (FHWA-HQ)

John McClellan: John McClellan MNDOT

Melvin Dorsey: Melvin Dorsey NCDOT

Tony Young - FHWA KY: Tony Young - FHWA KY Div

Rick Klein: Rick Klein - Gannett Fleming

Darin Weaver: Darin Weaver - - Oregon DOT

Stephen Ratke: FHWA TX

david stein: David Stein: Travelers Marketing

Richard Jurey, FHWA Oklahoma: Richard Jurey, FHWA Oklahoma

NCDOT: NCDOT: Cliff Braam & Meredith McDiarmid

Scott Yinger: Scott Yinger: MD SHA

Lisa Vieth -Missouri DOT: Lisa Vieth-Missouri DOT

Gary Ogletree-TDOT: Gary Ogletree- TDOT

Ek Phomsavath: Ek Phomsavath, FHWA New Jersey

mark kirouac: lots of echo from speaker

Greg Morris: FHWA – GA

Vince Fairhurst - WSDOT: Vince Fairhurst – WSDOT

Lisa: Lisa Davies- Caltrans (California DOT)

Marc Thornsberry: FHWA MO

IR: Iris Rodriguez - FHWA VA

Jim Austrich: Jim Austrich-FHWA

Glenn Blackwelder: Glenn Blackwelder Utah DOT

Kevin Korth FHWA CA Division: present

Jason Josey: Jason Josey- GDOT

Suzette Peplinski: Suzette Peplinski - Michigan DOT

Dan Hinton - SC: Dan Hinton FHWA

Marilyn Valdez: Marilyn Valdez- FHWA NM

Patrick Rooney: Patrick Rooney: MD SHA CHART

Q&A

Bob Taylor PTC: will presentations be shared?

Elizabeth LaBelle: Yes, we will make the presentations available following the meeting.

Kevin Korth FHWA CA Division: To all presenters: Do your service patrols, whether state worker or contractor, have any different authority over a tow truck traveling to the scene? By law, Is there any difference in a SSP versus a recovery tower traveling to the scene on the shoulder?

Elizabeth LaBelle: Great question, Kevin. We will ask the presenters to answer following the presentations during the Q&A period. Other attendees are also invited to share.

Sam McClain: Sam McClain - SafeHighways.org and Travelers Marketing

Elizabeth LaBelle: If you have questions for the presenters, please continue to submit them and we will address them during the Q&A

Paul Keltner: Which, if any, of the states presenting have large fleets or portions of their fleets that have the ability to tow a vehicle? Are there other known states that have fleet assets with tow capabilities?

Paul Keltner: Wisconsin DOT

Michael Washburn: How do your programs publicize and provide outreach for Move Over laws for Safety Service Patrols? Do you SSPs sign "Move Over" for shoulder events?

Paul Jodoin: Kevin- It varies from state to state and per program

Sam McClain: Paul, I know MassDOT uses flatbeds like Wisconsin does. Which other states here also use them as a part of your SSP fleet?

NCDOT: NC's SSP does not perform any towing operations above and beyond, the typical push, pull, drag.

Scott Yinger: 42 of our 63 heavy truck fleet in Maryland are tow trucks used to relocate vehicles out of the travel lanes.

Lori Gong: In California we utilize service trucks, tow trucks and flatbeds.

Paul Keltner: Thanks Scott, Lori, thanks Sam!

Darin Weaver: Oregon SSP's are classified as Emergency Vehicles and will use emergency vehicle warning lights and sirens to work through scene traffic on scenes but

also in select circumstances may employ their emergency vehicle lighting / sirens to respond.

Glenn Blackwelder: In Utah we have wheel-lift towing capability on our trucks. We tow to the next exit and leave it there for the tow company.

Jason: GDOT HERO units all have red light permits and are capable and able to respond in an emergency (lights & siren) capacity to travel lane and high priority incidents.

Vince Fairhurst - WSDOT: Washington has tow trucks in Seattle - floating bridges, reversible expressway, tunnel operations, etc.

Darin Weaver: Oregon uses Push, Pull & Drag techniques but does not have any "wheel lift" or tow truck like functions.

Vince Fairhurst - WSDOT: Life safety &/or blocking travel lane is when we use lights/sirens

John McClellan: MNDOT FIRST is all 3/4 ton pickups, no towing capability. They are not emergency vehicles, but are allowed to run shoulder using same rules as buses on shoulder - only if traffic is stopped/slow, max of 15mph faster than mainline traffic, and if responding to a lane blocking incident. Trucks will push, occasionally will drag semis.

Gary Ogletree-TDOT: In TN the HELP Patrol to respond to lane blockages.

Gary Ogletree-TDOT: TN HELP Trucks are emergency vehicles with red lights and sirens

Kimberly Vasconez: We have just produced a MOVE IT PSA, for drivers to move their vehicle to a safe location. We see Move Over as promoted by fire/LE, but DOT should support MOVE Over and MOVE IT.

Vince Fairhurst - WSDOT: Tow operation on state roads is managed by State Patrol

John McClellan: Which states have state employees as FSP operators vs contracted, and same for dispatch - who uses state employee vs contracted dispatchers?

NCDOT: NC has contracted most of our dispatchers. All of our SSP drivers are state employees.

Gary Ogletree-TDOT: TN HELP operators are all TDOT employees.

Paul Keltner: WisDOT has all contracted FST drivers.

Lori Gong: California's FSP operators are not state employees. Dispatchers are State Employees.

Jason: GDOT HERO are all state employees. Dispatchers are contracted.

Scott Yinger: The trend in Maryland is to hire contractual dispatchers of which the majority of our TMC staff is currently. Our drivers are state employees except for two trucks who fall under the sponsorship agreement.

Michael Washburn: Florida's programs are contracted.

Darin: Oregon has state employees for dispatch and SSP

Carl Merckle Ohio DOT: Ohio has contracted SSP

Glenn Blackwelder: Utah uses state employees for motorist assist. Our motorist assist is dispatched by Utah Highway Patrol dispatch (also state employees)

Carl Merckle Ohio DOT: Ohio runs the same program as Georgia

RESOURCES

Joseph Sagal: TIM Network <http://timnetwork.org/>

Joseph Sagal: Safe Highway Matters SafeHighways.org

Joseph Sagal: MOVE IT PSA <https://vimeo.com/116972026>