Sal Cowan

Director of Traffic Operations New Jersey DOT Salvatore.Cowan@dot.nj.gov (609) 530-4843



Safety Service Patrol Idea Sharing Network

Session VIII: Preparing for and Responding to Major Traffic Events







New Jersey DOT Safety Service Patrol

Launch Year: 1994

Personnel: 71

Fleet Size: 56

Patrol Size: Varies by Region and Staffing

Coverage Area: 225 linear miles

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday (4a-830p), Weekends (10-830p)

Highlights: Safety Focused, Well-Recognized by Responders



Preparing for Major Special Events

- Recognize The Date
- Know / Learn the Areas
- Understand potential impact
- Planned vs Unplanned Events



Should Service Patrol be Involved?

- Service to the Public and State partners
- Not to support private company events
- Is there a benefit to the Department and is it valuable to the public?



Best Practices During Events

- Planned event (i.e. Haskell) SSP is out there for motorist assist and help with safety.
- Unplanned event (State Police Funerals) we have changed tires on vehicles in the procession and provide safety.
- Incident Management Response Team handles all plans for the events and decides if SSP is needed.



Best Practices During Events (cont'd)

During the 2015 Papal Visit to Philadelphia, SSP to relocated and placed more than a dozen PVMS.





Best Practices During Events (cont'd)

Joint Base McGuire/Dix /Lakehurst Mothers Day Air Show





Learning from Previous Events/Responses

- Planning is Key
- Logistics are Discussed
 - (i.e. time to get from point A to point B)
- Check in During Event
- Debriefing is Crucial
- Learn from Mistakes



Reviewing Past Event Action Plans

- Recurring annual events are reviewed annually
- Any Changes?
- Check the Weather
- Check Traffic Impact from Past Year



Timeline for Preparation

- As soon as we are notified by the sponsor, our Incident
 Management staff begins to organize with them
- SSP is usually notified about a month prior to the event



Coordination with Other Parties

- SSP Shift Supervisors and Yard Supervisors
- Central Dispatch Unit (all communication goes through them for SSP)
- Regional Managers
- Incident Management
- Director / Assistant Commissioner
- Law Enforcement (key player)
- Area Command



After Action Reviews

- Depends of the size and scale of the event
- Keep in touch during the event and review the outcome
- Everyone involved should be at the meeting to discuss what worked and what didn't work
- Be painfully honest or we won't learn for next one



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