

The Wisconsin Responder



WisDOT's TIME Program Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2023

wisconsindot.gov/time

Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) November 13-17, 2023



Mike's Minute



MICHAEL JUNGBLUTH
ETO/TIME Program Manager

Hello from the ETO/TIME team!

As 2023 is coming to an end, across the country thirty-three first responders have lost their lives in struck by incidents on our roadways this year. Per ResponderSafety.com, we have to start with good data to understand what is happening at these near miss and struck by incidents so we, as a responder community, can design effective prevention strategies and put those strategies into action.

Please join us in this effort. Support these voluntary-reporting databases for Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, and Towing/Recovery by submitting reports of near miss and struck by incidents where you have been present. That will better help us understand what we need to do so we can move forward to reduce these tragic incidents. Link for [reporting near-misses](#).

A special thank you to the Prairie du Chien Police Department and Police Chief Kyle Tenor for sponsoring a TIM Train-the-Trainer (TtT) program on Saturday, October 28. Eleven new volunteer TIM instructors will be ready to assist the SW WisDOT region with future TIM classes. For 2024, we are planning a TtT class in the spring at a WisDOT NWR location and in the fall within the WisDOT SE Region. If you are interested in sponsoring a TtT class, please reach out to myself or Naydene.

As we move towards the holiday season, the ETO/TIME team wishes you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As always, please maintain situational awareness at all times. You must constantly be aware of your surroundings because things can change in a split second!

Thank you for continuing to serve...stay safe, *Mike*

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Crash Responder Safety Week



Wisconsin's emergency responders work tirelessly to save lives and keep our highways safe, responding to approximately 128,296 traffic crashes in Wisconsin that included 593 fatalities in 2021.

Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) is set for November 13-17, 2023. This year's theme is "Protect Those Who Protect You." The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the TIME program support this effort to remind motorists nationwide of the dangers first responders face every day while working in or around live traffic.

CRSW is an opportunity for all responder communities to join together and raise awareness about the important, dangerous job of crash response. Public education and effective traffic incident management practices help keep motorists safe, reduce needless secondary crashes, and save lives. Together we remind drivers to move over or slow down when encountering emergency scenes. The goal of CRSW is to educate every emergency responder, driver, and passenger, about how they can play their part in ensuring safe responses at roadway incident scenes.

WisDOT, along with our first responder agencies and organizations, is marking CRSW with Governor Evers' proclamation, message boards on Wisconsin highways, a WisDOT social media campaign, a WisDOT Transportation Connects Us podcast, traffic incident management training classes and the lighting of the bridges in Milwaukee, Eau Claire and Green Bay.

Bridge Weight Limits for Emergency Vehicles

By Alex Pence, WisDOT Bureau of Structures

Wisconsin is one of many states that allows emergency vehicles to exceed standard bridge weight limits without requiring an oversize-overweight permit. This has obvious benefits of optimizing response times, however, it does not imply that bridges can carry unlimited weights for heavy vehicles responding to emergencies.

In 2020, WisDOT placed its first **Emergency Vehicle Weight Limit** signs on several bridges on or near the Interstate. This was the initial response to the 2015 FAST Act, federal legislation increasing allowable weights for emergency vehicles along the Interstate system and within one-mile access. Following the FAST Act, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) required state DOTs to evaluate their bridges for firetruck loads, and if necessary, post weight limits.



Because Wisconsin state laws already allowed emergency vehicles to exceed standard weight limits throughout the state, WisDOT and FHWA agreed that emergency vehicle weight limits for bridges located beyond one mile from the Interstate could be communicated to emergency responders and bridge owners through an online map, in lieu of posting signs. WisDOT's evaluation of these bridges has recently been completed, and the map will be available by November 1, 2023 through the [WisDOT Maps](#) portal, where users can identify bridge weight limits in their service area and subscribe to notifications for future changes. For more information, refer to WisDOT's Bulletin, [Bridge Weight Limits for Emergency Vehicles](#).

WisDOT Partners With Duluth Fire Department on Unique Training Exercise

By Dexter Cruse, WisDOT



Driving across the Richard I. Bong Memorial Bridge, drivers get some magnificent views of St. Louis Bay near Lake Superior. While those views, along 11,800 feet of bridge connecting Superior and Duluth, can be mesmerizing for the public, first responders must always be in tune with the surroundings in case of a possible emergency.

A bridge that long can pose unique challenges for rescuers in the event there's an issue in everyday travel, inspection or construction. For this reason, it is crucial for the surrounding fire departments to have an outstanding response plan for possible emergencies. Earlier this year, Duluth Fire Department worked with WisDOT's bridge unit for an insider's look at the bridge, including a tour of the arch span 120 feet above the water. The visit took part during WisDOT's regularly scheduled inspection of the Bong Bridge.

"It's great to meet supervisors and other people to know who you are dealing with in case of an emergency," said Assistant Chief Brent Consie. Duluth Fire Department was able to meet members of WisDOT inspection crews. These inspectors would be a primary contact in case of an emergency.



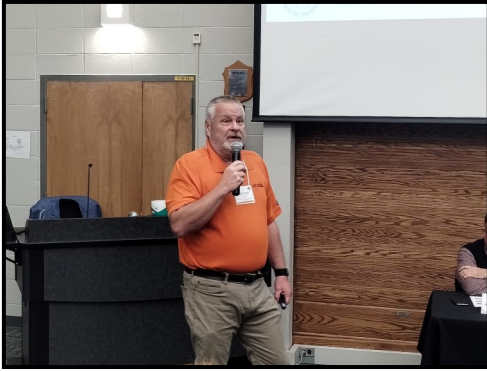
WisDOT conducts these inspections with one vision in mind, to make sure the structure is safe for the traveling public. Bridge inspectors survey the superstructure and beams looking for cracks, rust, and any issues with nuts and bolts, substructure units and bridge approaches including the surface and deck of the bridge. Bridges that cross bodies of water require divers to inspect supporting piers.

Bureau of Structures Maintenance Supervisor Thomas Hardinger said, "The tour for the firefighters is to become aware and learn the difficulties and unique nature of the structure and the arch span."

Duluth Fire Department regularly trains on rope and confined space rescues. Consie says, "It's nice to know where people are working so we can pre-plan rescues and ourselves to know what equipment we need and what personnel to bring." Learning the layout of the bridge gives the firefighters the knowledge needed to conduct rescues quickly and safely.

"I certainly appreciate their effort to learn about the structure and what we do as a department to conduct the inspection," said Hardinger.

TIM Symposium



Marquis Young (Statewide TIM Engineer), Rick Tumaniec (NWR Traffic Incident Engineer), and Mike Jungbluth were nominated to attend and represent Wisconsin at the upcoming FHWA National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Leadership, Technology, and Training Symposium at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), National Fire Academy (NFA), on October 20-22, 2023, in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The symposium was designed to provide states an opportunity to both hear about and share the latest and greatest in all things traffic incident management. The agenda covered an array of topics including organizational partnerships, continued efforts to expand TIM at the local level, training, performance measures, and proven and emerging technologies. Forty-two states were represented. WisDOT provided presentations on our Wisconsin Responder Newsletter on Friday evening and our outreach approaches on Saturday.



WisDOT Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) Update

In September, WisDOT participated in a panel discussion at the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) International Conference. On this panel, WisDOT had the opportunity to present an overview of the Time Law Enforcement and First Responders CAV Training as well discuss the state's role in CAV technology and highlight WisDOT and TIME's partnership in creating one of the few CAV training programs currently available for first responders.

The panel also included representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), who discussed the federal government's role in managing automated vehicle technology, and Mercedes Benz, who discussed the safety plan and roll-out of their DRIVEPILOT technology, a level 3 automated driver assist system (ADAS). Level 3 ADAS is a conditionally automated system which operates on limited roadways under limited traffic conditions, e.g. traffic jams, which allows the driver to not pay attention and alerts the driver when they must take over the driving task.

This session of the conference was attended by approximately 200 people, with a large number of law enforcement personnel in attendance.

In November 2023, the Wisconsin Automated Vehicle External advisory committee (WAVE) meeting will be held at the Hill Farms State Office Building and will focus on current CAV research as it relates to Wisconsin.



Brad Basten, WisDOT, at AAMVA International Conference, 2023








Mercedes Benz DRIVEPILOT equipped vehicle on display

[Wisconsin Department of Transportation Connected and Automated Vehicles \(wisconsindot.gov\)](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/cav.aspx)

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/cav.aspx>

2023 Fall Regional TIME Meeting Schedule

Construction Projects * Connected and Automated Vehicle Workgroup Updates *
Review of Traffic Crashes * Specialized Training Topics

				
NWR Counties	NCR Counties	NER Counties	SWR Counties	SER Counties
<p>Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Taylor, Pepin, Eau Claire, Clark, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson & Pierce</p>	<p>Iron, Vilas, Florence, Price, Oneida, Forest, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Shawano, Menominee, Wood, Portage, Waupaca, Adams, Waushara, Marquette & Green Lake</p>	<p>Marinette, Oconto, Door, Outagamie, Brown, Kewaunee, Winnebago, Calumet, Manitowoc, Sheboygan & Fond du Lac</p>	<p>La Crosse, Monroe, Juneau, Vernon, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Crawford, Richland, Grant, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Lafayette, Green & Rock</p>	<p>Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine & Kenosha</p>
<p>Southwest Region: November 7, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>				
<p>Northeast Region: November 7, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</p>				
<p>Northwest Region: November 14, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>				
<p>Southeast Region: November 15, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>				
<p>North Central Region: November 15, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>				

The meeting agendas will be sent out a week before each meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting in your region, please feel free to join another region’s TIME meeting.

We look forward to your participation!

SPECIAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



November 2023

- Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day (TBD)
- Crash Responder Safety Week (11/13-11/17)
- Winter Awareness Week (TBD)
- World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (11/19)

December 2023

- Impaired Driving Prevention Month
- Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (12/4-12/8)

January 2024

- Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- National Passenger Safety Week (TBD)

February 2024

- Wisconsin EMS Association Conference (1/30-2/2)
- Wisconsin Police Leadership Foundation Conference (2/4-2/7)
- Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association Conference (TBD)

March 2024

- Flood Safety Awareness Week (TBD)
- Governor's Conference on Emergency Management & Homeland Security (TBD)
- Wisconsin State Firefighters Association Conference (3/21-3/23)

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