

USFA AND DOT COMPLETE STUDY OF TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, working in partnership with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), have developed a report that provides technical guidance and training programs in traffic incident management for fire and emergency service providers. The report, Traffic Incident Management Systems (PDF, 10.5 Mb) (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tims_0408.pdf), contains guidance for local-level fire departments on compliance with the DOT's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the National Fire Service Incident Management System (IMS) Consortium's Model Procedures Guide for Highway Incidents.

"Too many firefighters and other emergency responders have been killed on duty from being struck by vehicles. Implementing an effective traffic incident management system could reduce this number," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "The USFA was pleased to work with the DOT and IFSTA to enhance their safety while working on the roadway."

This project included research into emergency services implementation of TIMS and the IMS Consortium Guide, examining such technologies and practices as effective distance for placement of roadway warning signs; correct amount and type of emergency vehicle warning lighting (e.g., intensity, color, etc.); and training, placement, and protective equipment for "flaggers".

"We're committed to protecting the lives of firefighters and emergency responders working on our nation's roadways," said Jim Ray, Acting Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. "We must provide for the safety of these men and women who act selflessly to risk their lives to assist someone else who is in harm's way."

The manual includes case studies of roadway incidents that have taken the lives of firefighters, highway scene safety survival basics, incident command for roadway incidents, and examples of effective TIMS programs. It also provides information on the American National Standards Institute/ International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) standard 207, High Visibility Public Safety Vests.

"IFSTA was proud to work with USFA and the U.S. Department of Transportation in this initiative to protect firefighters operating on the roadway," said Chris Neal, IFSTA Executive Director. "Traffic incident management is an important operational and safety issue for today's fire service."

Further information about this study may be found on the USFA Web site.

(<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/roadway.shtm>)

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