THE GREAT POTATO TRUCK CRASH

12-15-11

A TRACTOR TRAILER HAULING 40,000 POUNDS OF BAGGED POTATOES OVERTURNED, BLOCKING ALL LANES AND SHOULDER AND BECAME STUCK IN THE RIGHT GUARDRAIL, SPILLING APPROXIMATELY 30 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL.

I-40 EAST BOUND STAYED CLOSED FOR 11 HOURS.
RESULTING IN:

400 VEHICLES TRAPPED IN QUEUE INCLUDING ONE SCHOOL BUS SPENDING THE NIGHT ON OUR INTERSTATE WITHOUT ANYONE CHECKING ON THEM.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF BOTH SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION FOUND THIS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE.

PERSONNEL FROM BOTH DEPARTMENTS WERE CHARGED WITH REWORKING INTERDEPARTMENTAL OPEN ROADS MOU.
OPEN ROADS MOU

• WHERE AS:

  • TRAFFIC IS A GROWING PROBLEM

  • CONGESTION COSTS IN AREAS SUCH AS:
    • TIME
    • FUEL
    • MONEY
    • AIR POLLUTION
    • ROAD RAGE

  • 60% OF CONGESTION IS INCIDENT RELATED (NOT CAPACITY)

  • UP TO 20% OF COLLISIONS ON CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS ARE SECONDARY

  • EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE ESPECIALLY AT RISK ON SUCH HIGHWAYS

  • TDOSHS AND TDOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS HIGHWAY INCIDENTS
BE IT RESOLVED:

THIS MEMORANDUM’S PURPOSE WAS TO HEIGHTEN JOINT EFFORTS AND ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS CAUSED AS A RESULT OF INCIDENTS BY EMPHASIZING URGENT AND SAFE CLEARANCE OF HIGHWAY INCIDENTS.
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY (TDOSHS)

- EXPEDITE INVESTIGATIONS
- MINIMIZE TRAFFIC DELAYS
- QUICKLY CLEAR NON-INJURY CRASHES FROM LANE
- ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO EXPEDITE CLEARING THE SCENE
- CALL THE PROPER WRECKER
- MINIMIZE LANE BLOCKAGES BY WRECKER
- WORK WITH TRUCKING INDUSTRY TO MINIMIZE ROLLOVERS
- TEACH TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING AT THE THP ACADEMY
WHERE POSSIBLE HELP (INCIDENT MANAGEMENT) UNITS WILL BE DISPATCHED TO INCIDENTS WHEN REQUESTED BY TDOSHS

WILL INSTALL REFERENCE MARKERS (ENHANCED IN URBAN AREAS)

PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO FACILITATE QUICK REMOVAL OF VEHICLE, DEBRIS AND CARGO

ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING DETOURS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL ACCORDING TO MUTCD

PROVIDE SPACE FOR EMERGENCY STORAGE

DESIGNATE CONTACT PERSONS IN EACH DISTRICT TO WORK WITH TDOSHS FOR QUICK CLEARANCE

MINIMIZE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE TRAFFIC IMPACTS

PERSONNEL WILL HAVE TIMS TRAINING
TDOT AND TDOSHs

- Promote quick clearance and protect the queue
- Remove or have removed vehicles, cargo, etc.
- Position equipment to minimize traffic impacts
- Work with responsible agencies for hazmat incidents
- Deploy all available resources to minimize delays
- Will not prioritize cargo or salvage over quick clearance
- Will conduct after action reviews on major incidents
- Will communicate
- Will have a clearance target of 90 minutes
- Will provide traffic incident management training to all responders
- Support strategic highway safety plan
LOCAL AGENCIES

- EXPEDITE INVESTIGATIONS
- MAKE QUICK CLEARANCE A HIGH PRIORITY
- COORDINATE TRAFFIC CONTROL WITH STATE AGENCIES TO SAFELY RETURN ROADWAY TO NORMAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- CONDUCT TENNESSEE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING
- SUPPORT 90 MINUTES CLEARANCE GOAL
- PROTECT THE QUEUE WHERE POSSIBLE
- ESTABLISH LOCAL HIGHWAY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES
INCENTIVES TO SIGN

• FREE TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING
• ENHANCED MILE MARKERS
• STREAMING ENHANCED VIDEO
• EXPANDED ITS
• CONSIDERATION FOR TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE GRANTS
• INCREASED CUSTOMER/RESPONDER SAFETY AND SATISFACTION
MOU MAP MAY 7, 2015
NEXT STEPS

REGION HELP COORDINATORS TO FOLLOW UP WITH MOU SIGNEES

PURSUE TIM TRAINING FOR ALL RESPONDERS

TRAIN TOGETHER
QUESTIONS?

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