

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION (TIMBR) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 4, 2024
10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Chair JJ Lynott was unable to attend. Ms. Eileen Singleton welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 5, 2024

There were no comments on the minutes.

3. HARFORD COUNTY TOWING ELECTRIC VEHICLE TOWING REGULATIONS

Mr. Joe Rehder provided an overview of the Harford County electric vehicle (EV) towing regulations that are currently being developed. The Harford County Tow Board is working with Harford County Department of Emergency Management, Department of Licensing, Sheriff's Office, and Fire Department Special Operations do develop regulations for towing EVs. The regulations have been drafted and are in review with the County legal department. Mr. Rehder said that he hopes the regulations will be approved by the end of September to take effect on January 1, 2025.

The key points of the regulations include:

- Training requirements for key staff and yearly continuing education requirements from all towing companies that want to be on the tow rotation for police initiated towing of EVs. The regulations propose at least four hours of continuing education annually. Mr. Rehder noted that information about EVs and handling changes frequently so continuing education is critical.
- Minimum level of personal protective equipment (PPE) for tow operators that will be handling EVs, to include flame resistant rated uniforms.
- Specialized equipment that is non-conductive will be required.
- Minimum requirements for a safe containment area in the tow company storage yard, either 6 feet or higher concrete enclosures on three sides or at least 50 feet open space in all directions around an area where an EV will be stored. Either of these options will help minimize potential for surrounding vehicles to catch fire if the EV

reignites. At this time, most tow yards are not able to meet the larger space requirement.

- There will be a separate rotation list for towers that meet all of these requirements from the standard police initiated tow rotation; that separate list will be used to handle incidents with EVs involved.
- Keeping accurate records of EV recoveries, including an after action report for each EV tow. This will also help protect the tower.

The fire risk from EVs is very great – both from the difficulty in putting them out and the danger of reignition. Mr. Rehder said that he is aware of an EV that reignited after 42 days.

Towing and Recovery Professionals of Maryland has sponsored several classes. There is a TRPM-sponsored class on September 21st in Hebron, MD, on towing and recovery of EVs.

Mr. Rehder noted issues around the lack of identification of EVs and lack of information from the incident scene that there is an EV involved in the crash and the extent of the damage.

The Harford County Tow Board is also working to add the requirement that at least one fire department vehicle remains on the incident scene with an EV until the tow operator has the EV loaded and ready to leave the scene. The fire crew will work on reignited EVs and will monitor the air for toxic fumes emitted by EVs. This will come out as a Standard Operating Procedure through the Harford County Fire Department Special Operations Command.

The current EV training is just for passenger vehicles/light trucks; semi trucks will be included in the next revision. WreckMaster is the only one to offer a class for heavy EV response; that class will be offered in November at the Tow Show and Mr. Rehder will be taking that.

Mr. Rehder will share training information with the group. The courses are primarily geared to tow operators but any responder can attend. The training is full day (six to eight hours).

Once the regulations are approved, they can be shared with the other jurisdictions. It will be useful for other agencies to see them. The TIMBR Committee can issue guidelines and help support local jurisdictions if they develop their own guidelines.

[PowerPoint: Traffic Incident Management for the Baltimore Region Committee]

4. UPDATE TIM SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR 2024

The group discussed responses to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) TIM self-assessment for 2024. Since the self-assessment was recently completed, none of the scores had changed. Ms. Singleton noted that submitting the self-assessment to FHWA this fall will put the region in line with the FHWA schedule. After the meeting, she will submit the score to the FHWA self-assessment portal.

[Handout: Traffic Incident Management Capability Maturity Self-Assessment Questions]

5. STATE AND LOCAL TIM UPDATES

TIM Training Update

Maryland has trained 48.4% of all responders, totaling 11,230. For questions about taking, hosting, or teaching a course, contact Mr. Kevin Fox (kfox@mdot.maryland.gov).

A reminder from the last meeting that the Emergency Responder Safety Institute [webpage tracks responder struck-by-vehicle fatalities](#). You can also [report a struck-by incident](#) on the ERSI webpage (www.ReportStruckBy.com). ERSI also has [links to near miss reporting databases](#) from fire, law enforcement, and towing.

Upcoming Events

- 9/11 Patriot Ride coming up, running from Darlington to Parkville. MDOT SHA is working with Baltimore County to coordinate.
- First home Ravens game will be September 15th.
- National Crash Responder Safety Week is November 18 – 22, 2024. Maryland is working on a Governor's proclamation. Last year, the BMC Board signed a resolution; Ms. Singleton will work on having this signed again this year.
- American Towman Exposition will be at the Baltimore Convention Center on November 21 – 23.

[PowerPoint: Traffic Incident Management for the Baltimore Region Committee]

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Singleton is working with a group of TIMBR Committee members to plan the Baltimore Regional TIM Conference. The event will be held on April 23, 2025. More details will be provided shortly.
- Any ideas for meeting speakers/discussions at future meetings should be sent to Ms. Singleton.
- Future meetings:
 - December 4, 2024
 - If someone would like to host the meeting, please let Ms. Singleton know. The host organization can include a tour of the facility.
 - Meetings for 2025 are anticipated to continue quarterly, first Wednesdays in March, June, September, and December.

[PowerPoint: Traffic Incident Management for the Baltimore Region Committee]

ATTENDEES

Members:

Golnaz Askari, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
FSGT Brett Canfield, Maryland State Police
Kelly Caponera, MDOT State Highway Administration, District 7 Traffic
Reginald Coates, Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation
Bob Cumberland, Emergency Responder Safety Institute/CVFVC
Tanya King, Daniel Consultants
DC Carl Knight, Baltimore City Fire Dept.
Jeremy Lanning, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
David Lewis, Maryland Fire Chief's Association
Lt. David McGill, Annapolis Fire Dept.
Joe Rehder, Tim's Towing
Lexi Rider, Annapolis Dept. of Public Works
Raj Sharma, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
Off. Jonathan Strickler, Baltimore Co Police
Eric Tabacek, Anne Arundel Co Dept. of Public Works
Lt. Chris Valentine, Howard Co. Police
Jennifer Woo, Howard Co. Dept. of Public Works

Staff:

Blake Fisher, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Ndemazea Fonkem, BMC
Eileen Singleton, BMC