

National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management

► FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why do we need a National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management?

Improved Traffic Incident Management (TIM) programs and practices are urgently needed to:

- **Reduce traffic congestion.** Traffic incidents account for about one-quarter of all congestion on U.S. roadways. For every minute that a freeway travel lane is blocked during a peak travel period, four minutes of travel delay results after the incident is cleared. Safer, more efficient traffic incident management will reduce congestion by reducing incident duration and preventing secondary incidents.
- **Increase responder safety.** One of the leading causes of death and injury for emergency responders is being struck by vehicles while working alongside the highway. Improved incident management reduces responder risk by improving traffic control at incident scenes and reducing incident duration and risk exposure.

What Exactly is the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management?

The National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is a unified national policy developed by major national organizations representing traffic incident responders, under the leadership of the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC). The NUG will encourage state and local transportation and public safety agencies to adopt unified, multi-disciplinary policies, procedures and practices



that will dramatically improve the way traffic incidents are managed on U.S. roadways.

What Issues Will be Covered by the NUG?

The NUG is organized around three themes of broad common concern:

- Responder Safety
- Safe, Quick Clearance
- Prompt, Reliable Incident Communications

The NUG promotes key strategies related to each theme, and accountability to performance targets. Key strategies include development of multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary TIM policies, procedures and training; and development of national, multi-disciplinary recommended practices for many operational issues related to TIM.

Will the NUG be Mandatory?

No. The NUG is a unified policy statement that recommends strategies and goals. (over)

Does the NUG Address Funding?

No. The NUG describes what we need to do to improve traffic incident management. By joining together to pursue common goals, TIM stakeholders can leverage their opportunities to secure resources to pursue these goals.

How was the NUG Developed?

The NUG was developed through a consensus-building process.

- Outreach and listening sessions were held with national TIM stakeholder organizations to develop the Preliminary Draft NUG during the summer and fall of 2006.
- Delegates from the national TIM stakeholder organizations convened to provide input to the Preliminary Draft NUG at the NUG Conference held in Newport Beach, CA in November 2006.
- Based on input received at the NUG Conference, the Proposed NUG was drafted by a Steering Committee that included representation from the national TIM stakeholder groups.

- The NTIMC voted to approve the Proposed NUG in March 2007.
- Sixteen national organizations that belong to NTIMC and represent TIM responders and other stakeholders endorsed the NUG.
- The NUG was formally launched at an NTIMC press conference in November 2007, where the national TIM partners pledged to work together to promote and implement the strategies in the NUG.

Who are the National TIM Stakeholder Groups?

The national TIM stakeholder groups include the national organizations that belong to NTIMC, and other national organizations that are interested in promoting the NUG. Sectors represented include:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire & Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Public Safety Communications
- Towing and Recovery, and
- Transportation

More information about NTIMC and the National Unified Goal is available at <http://www.timcoalition.org>.

