



2012 ITS Project of the Year Award

The ITS Project of the Year 2012 is:

NET (Notify Every Truck) program

Fact sheet by Tim Emington (TRIMARC, Northrop Grumman), from ITS Midwest Newsletter Volume 7, Issue 1 (Mar. 2013)

The NET (Notify Every Truck) program, recognized as the ITS Midwest 2012 Project of the Year, was developed to mitigate the impacts of interstate closures on commercial operators while increasing the safety of first responders and motorists caught in the queues of major incidents in Kentucky.

Trucks sitting in traffic waste fuel, time, money, and increase pollution. Providing commercial operators with timely notifications when a qualifying limited access highway is expected to be closed for more than two hours, allows drivers to reroute or reschedule rest stops. Keeping tractor-trailers out of major back-ups also reduces the chances of secondary traffic accidents, shortens the length of the queue and provides a much faster recovery to free flow.

NET is overseen by the TRIMARC (Traffic Response and Information Management Assisting the River Cities) Traffic Operations Center in Louisville, KY. The program is designed to alert dispatchers, drivers, and commercial motor vehicle owners of major events on any interstate highway or parkway throughout the state of Kentucky. Although not a 24/7 operation, the TRIMARC staff works in conjunction with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Traffic Operations Center in Frankfort, KY to respond whenever necessary to administer an alert.

The idea for the program came from a side conversation at an Incident Management meeting in 2008 between a trucking company owner and a TRIMARC Traffic Operations Center supervisor. The trucking executive indicated it would be advantageous to both scene safety and the trucking industry if commercial operators could receive a timely notification when major highway incidents occur. The TOC supervisor, Jim Mallory, agreed and began the program as a collaborative effort with TRIMARC, representatives of the Federal Highway Administration, the KYTC, the Kentucky Motor Transport Association, trucking company owners, the Towing and Recovery Association of Kentucky, environmental cleanup companies, and several local and state police agencies. Northrop Grumman is the system integrator and operator of TRIMARC and has supplied the back-end support for the program.

NET is designed to ensure the incident information gets to the decision makers. Dispatchers are alerted when an interstate highway is closed so decisions can be made to diminish the effects on their equipment. With timely information, truck routes can be altered or required rest stops changed to avoid the delay and keep the trucks moving more efficiently. In addition, commercial operators are also notified when their trucks are involved in an incident so they can dispatch their company assets to expedite cleanup of the scene. The TRIMARC Traffic Operations Center monitors the closure, updates the incident as necessary and then re-notifies participants when the highway is cleared. Knowing when the highway has reopened is as important as the notification of the closure to commercial vehicle operations. Valuable time, money, and fuel are saved; secondary accidents and emissions are reduced; and responder safety is increased.

Consistent with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices guidelines, NET defines major events as any directional total closure anticipated to last longer than two hours. The anticipated duration is determined by emergency responders at the scene. This minimum anticipated duration is also beneficial to commercial operators who build a two hour window into their routing schedules for flexibility. The trucking industry recognizes alerts are only sent for major incidents and with an average of six alerts each month there has been no degradation in the importance of the notifications.

Participants sign up to receive text and/or email messages by completing a simple process on the program's website at www.notifyeverytruck.com. The only cost to participants is charges that may be incurred from their service provider.

Initially confined to the Metro Louisville area, the program quickly garnered enthusiastic interest from commercial carriers as well as state and federal agencies. The area was soon extended to cover Kentucky segments of I-64, I-65 and I-71. In 2012, the addition of a new server reduced the cycle time of the notification process and the program was expanded to cover not just all interstates in Kentucky but the parkways as well. In addition, when requested by the KYTC Traffic Operations Center, NET has sent out notifications for major incidents in Indiana and Tennessee. To date, 274 alerts have been sent.

Project Lead: TRIMARC Traffic Operations Center, Louisville, KY.

Project Web Site: <http://www.notifyeverytruck.com/>

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