

# I-94 PILEUP

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015





# INITIAL RESPONSE

Michigan State Police 5<sup>th</sup> District Troopers were the first on scene along with a Kalamazoo county prisoner transport vehicle.



# FIRST CRASH BEGAN ON EASTBOUND I-94

## Vehicles Involved

Passenger Vehicles:	34
Commercial Vehicles:	26



# SECONDARY CRASH ON THE WESTBOUND SIDE

## Vehicles involved

Passenger Vehicles:	83
Commercial Vehicles:	50



# Initial Response

- Troopers arrived on scene
- Initial responding Troopers advised Sgt's of what the current situation was
- State Police Regional Dispatch is advised of the ongoing situation



# Initial Response cont.

- Additional Troopers are summoned to the scene
- Kalamazoo and Calhoun County law enforcement assist with traffic re-route
- On scene Incident Command Vehicle requested



# Initial Response cont.

- While enroute to the scene State Police began requesting services
  - Additional ambulances **22 injured**
  - Transportation for the stranded and uninjured passengers
  - Immediate shutdown of I-94, identified exits



# Initial Response

- Request for full EOC activation after we recognized the amount of injuries on scene
- Immediate request for heavy wrecker service
  - Advised them to stage the wreckers off the freeway
  - Advised them to have one person come to the scene to analyze what they needed to complete the job
- Request for the MDOT signs to be changed as far as Ann Arbor and the Indiana State line letting motorists know to seek alternate routes



# Once the Incident Command Vehicle Arrives

- Identify Positions
  - On Scene Commander
  - Traffic Crash Reconstruction Commander
    - Identify Troopers to assist with the investigation
- Begin trying to identify a time line for clearance
- Send Troopers to the hospital and staging area to begin interviewing and investigating
- Immediately send out cameras to begin taking pictures of the scene before things are moved
- Identify Public Information Officer and a staging area for the media

# Crash Reconstruction

piecing it all together



# 193 total vehicles

WESTBOUND I-94

12 injuries



EASTBOUND I-94

10 injuries  
1 fatal



# Fatal Investigation

e/b I-94



# Operation Center

**“War Room”**



WWMT  
WXMI  
WOODTV  
WZZM  
Fox News  
NBC Chicago  
NBC New York  
Weather Channel  
Inside Edition  
MLive  
Kalamazoo Gazette  
Detroit Free Press  
AP  
Grand Rapids Press

# Sequence of Events

*Piecing it together*



# TEAMWork



15 Troopers

- called all involved
- multiple interviews
- witness statements

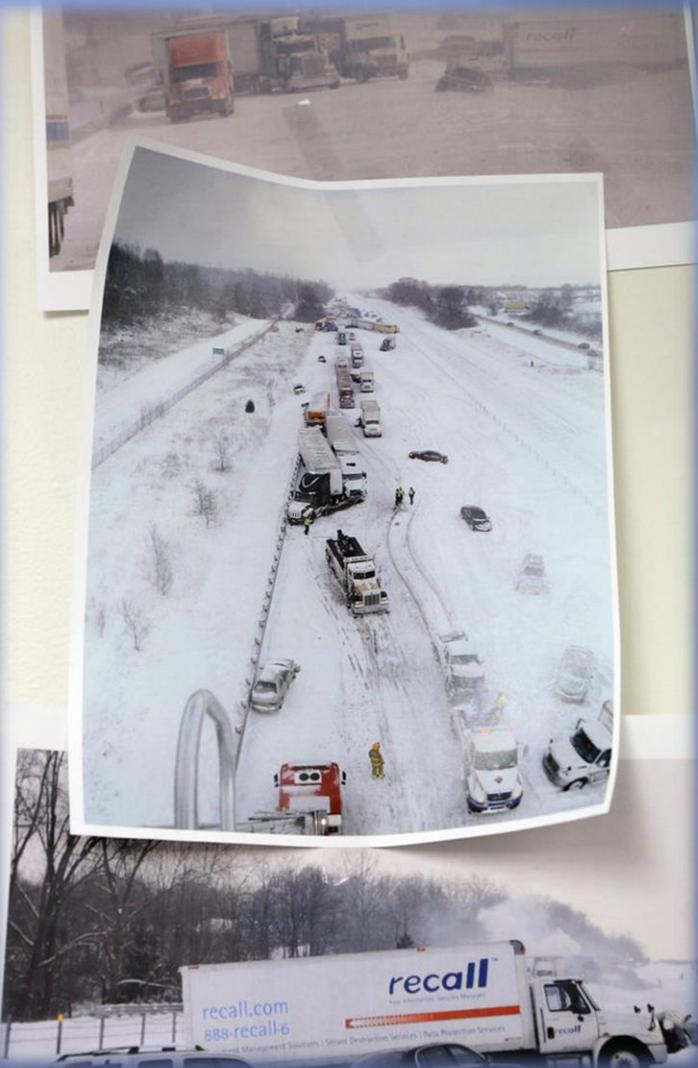
Length of Time

3 1/2 weeks

# TEAMWork



- organized photos
- organized public emails
- determined cause
- determined fault



# Michigan State Police-SCAR

## Auto Theft Unit

- 5 detectives
- assisted in identifying vehicles from the fire
- over 12 vehicles had to be identified by the auto theft unit



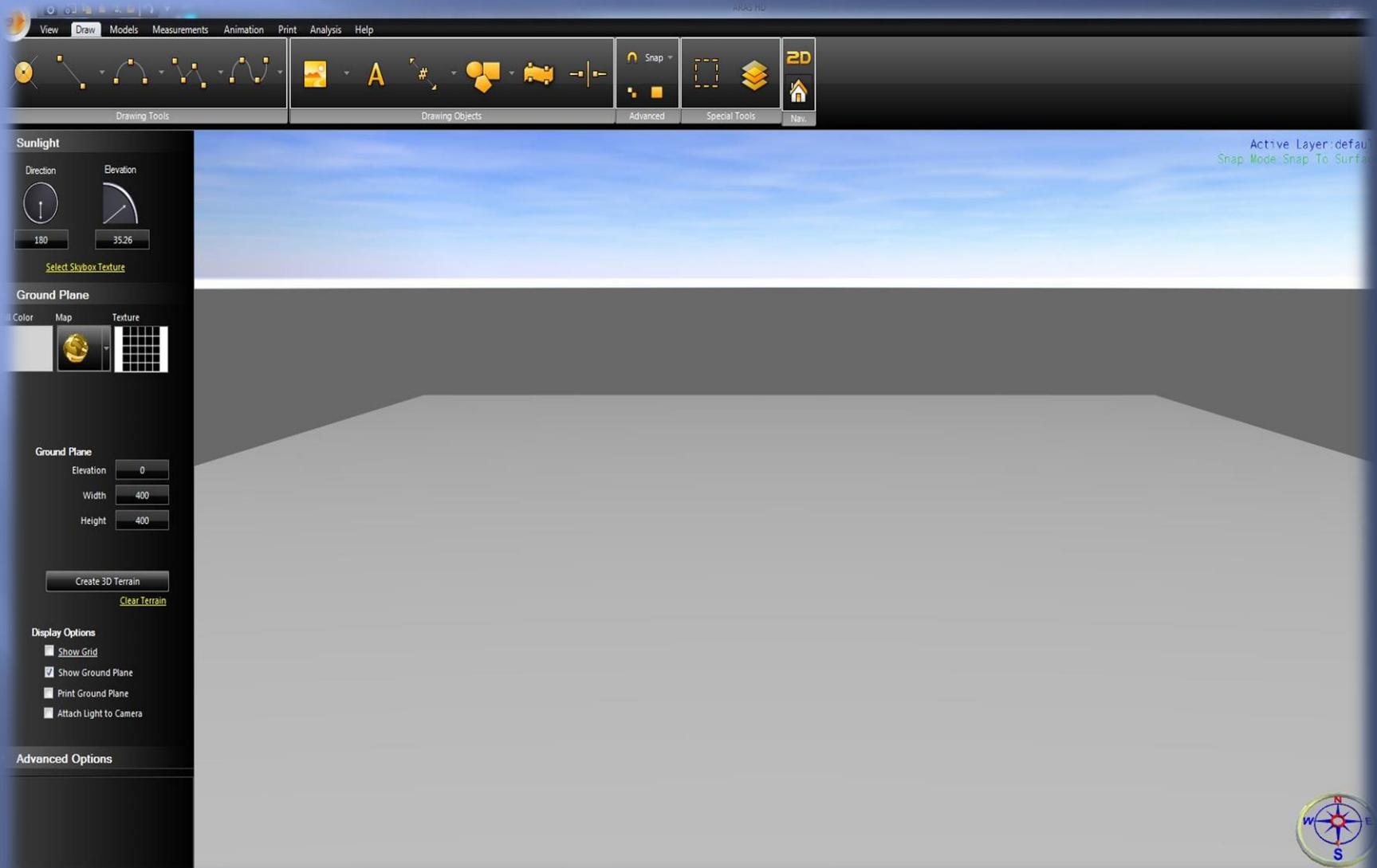
**4 MSP Accident Reconstructionists were called in from around the state to assist with downloading any of the vehicle's black boxes for investigative clues**



# Group review



# Reconstruction Program ARAS 360HD



# Set Up Goggle Map

Google Maps

Map Satellite Hybrid Remove Marker

Address  Search

(Street, Road, City, State, Zip) or (Latitude, Longitude)

**Marked Locations**

- 14834 Three Oaks Drive, Three Oaks
- 3428 136th ave, Hamilton michigan
- 6000 CR 687, South Haven Michigan
- 1600 silverbrook, niles michigan
- [galesburg michigan](#)
- 966 Langwell Rd, Matteson Townsh

Add Current Delete

**Alternate Search**

Latitude

Longitude

For west and south use negative values.

Search

Ok Cancel

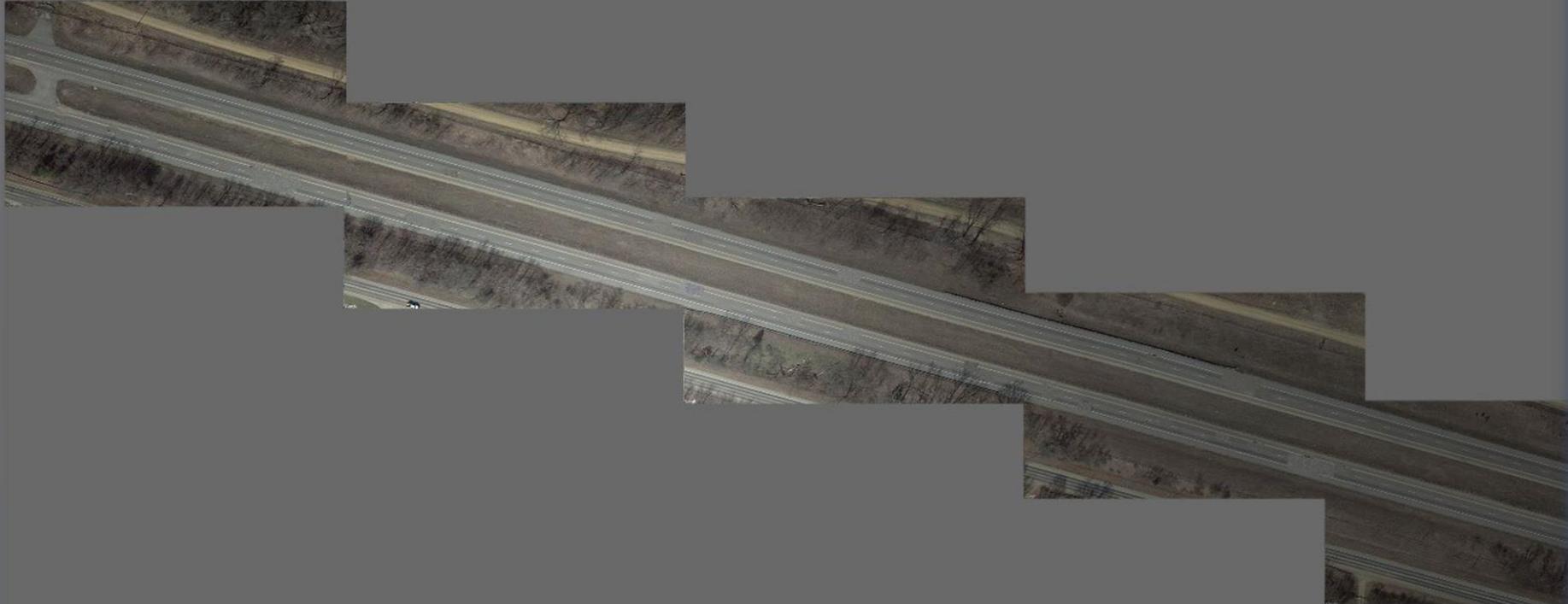
WICHIGAN STATE POLICE

# Create the scene

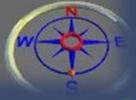
Home Animation Print Analysis Help



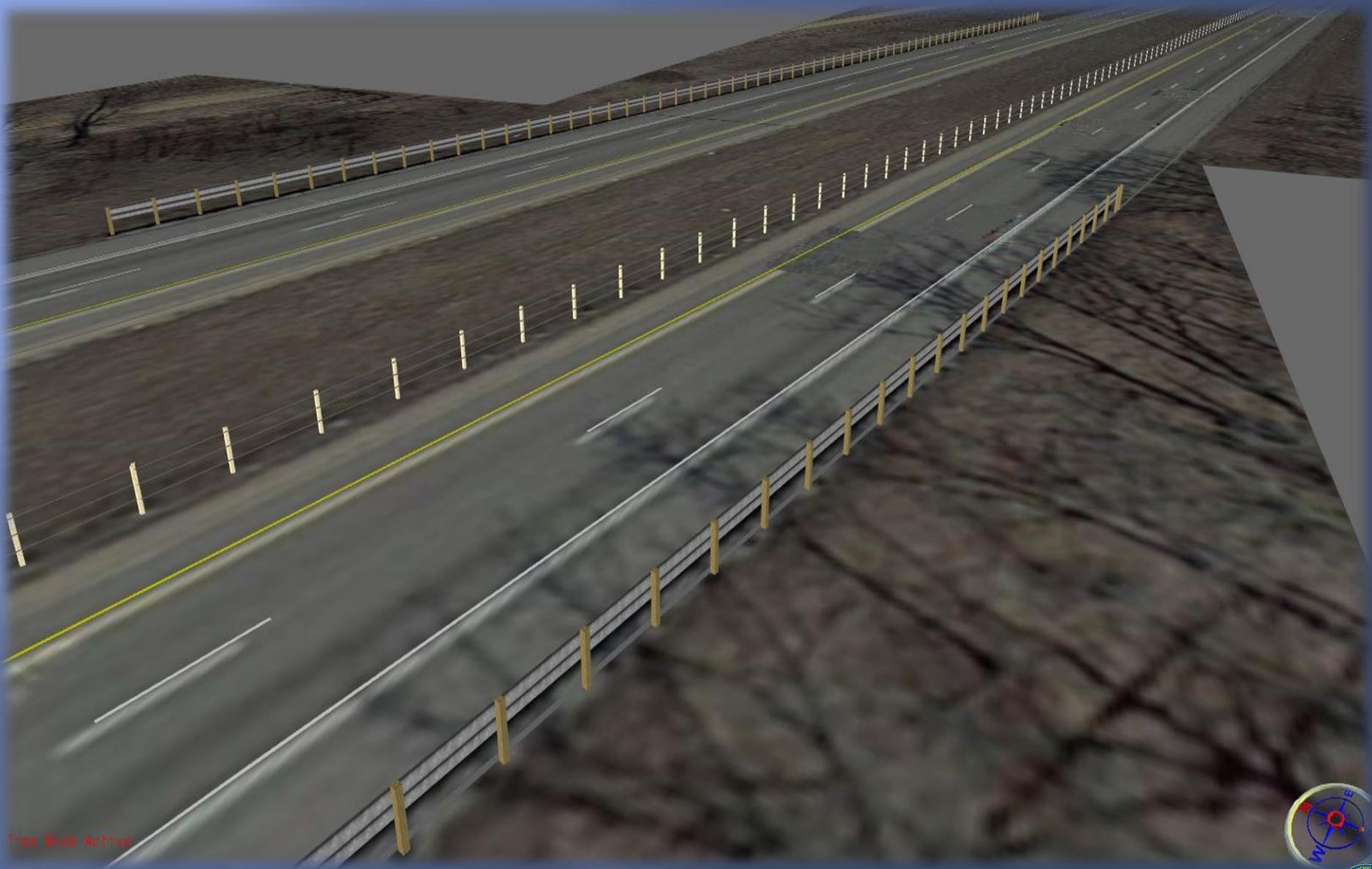
Active Layer: 21b Tmp1e T Express  
Snap Mode: Snap To Surface



Real-Time Mode Active



# Scene Details



Time Mode Active



# Where to Start ???

## Vehicle #1



# Damage Profile



# Damage Profile



# Scene Reconstruction

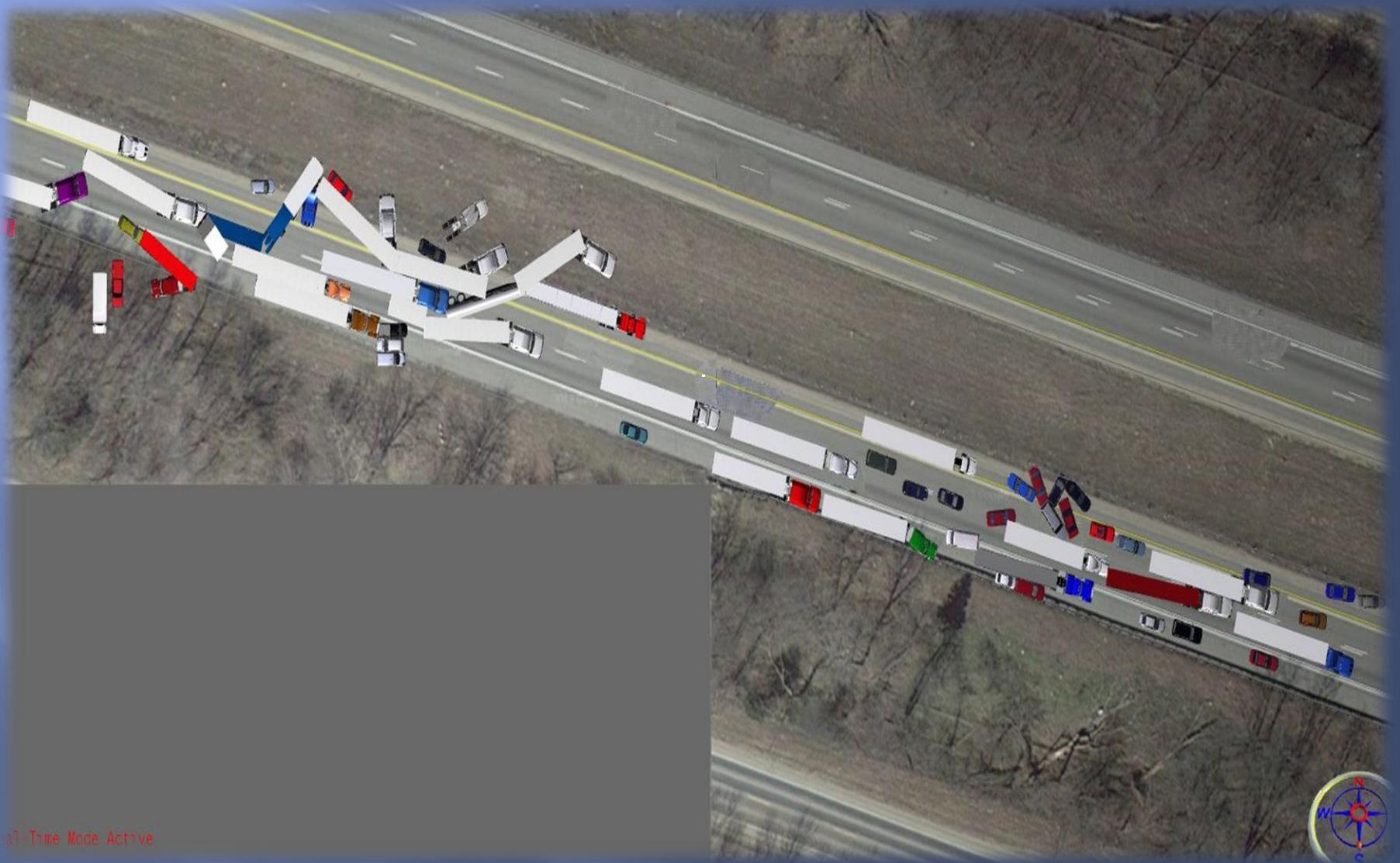
## Adding layers and vehicles



Real-Time Mode Active



# Eastbound I-94 - Fire



Real-Time Mode Active



# Fire Origin



Time Mode Active

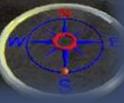
# Aftermath



# Aftermath

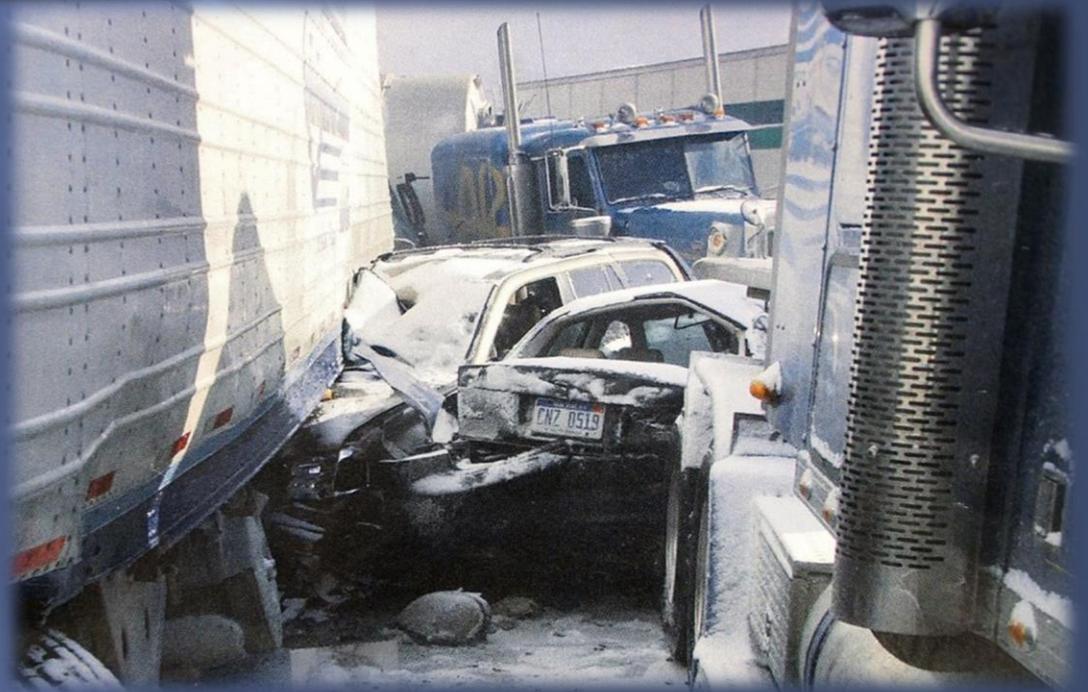


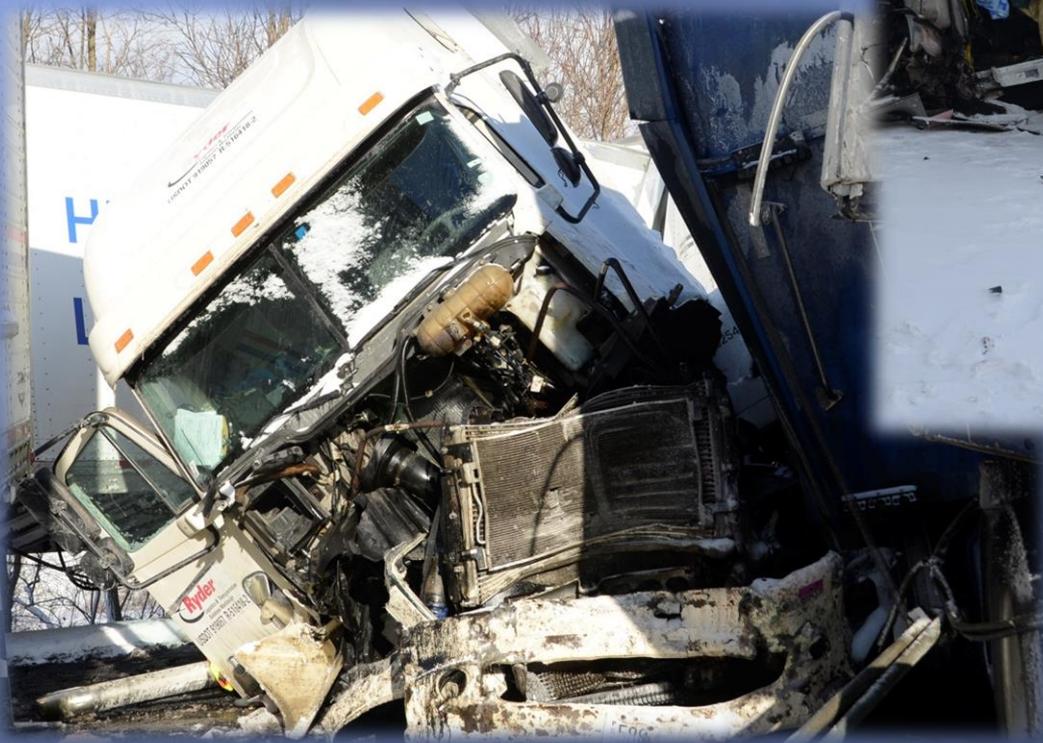
# Westbound I-94



3-11-2011 10:00 AM







# Results of the investigation



# Avoiding the Hazard Porsche Snow Tires?



# Complete Scene



# Traffic Crash Investigation

- Questions

# TOWING AND RESCUE

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2015

# Time line of Events

## Approx 9:35am

- A report of a major accident at the 90mm on I-94 E.B. by Michigan State Police
- Multiple owner calls coming into dispatch for towing needs at the crash location both E.B. and W.B.

## 10:15am Equipment Deployment

- 4 heavy duty wreckers/ rotators, 1 tractor trailer and landall, 1 rescue truck and 1 wrecker
- Very heavy snow rates with 100-150ft sight distance

## 10:30am Equipment Staging

- Towing was informed to stage equipment at the 40<sup>th</sup> St ramp area.
- 2 HD wreckers and 1 MD Wrecker deployed from staging area to help assist fire and rescue with moving vehicles to form a FIRE BLOCK and protect undamaged vehicles
- Didn't know the extent of the scene - started to call other working relations companies to assist

## Fire Works Trailer

- While trying get the vehicles moved the fireworks
- 1 employee injured and taken to the hospital



# Active Fire As WE Pull up to the Scene



# Time Line of Events

12:30-1:00pm

- Was able to assess the scene, discuss the clean up and time frame with MSP

## Additional Towing Resources

- Called Comstock Township Supervisor to grant permission for a temporary storage/impound lot in a vacant lot next to our location
- Started to contact additional towing resources from Grand Rapids, Lansing and surrounding area

4:00pm

- Contacted the metal recycler company for assistance with equipment and expertise
- Loader and Sky track on scene

2:30am Sunday

- All equipment and wreckage removed from scene.

# Post Fire Wreckage



# Challenges Of Clean up

- ▣ Temperature with wind chill -3 degrees
- ▣ Fire damage
- ▣ Hazmat situation
- ▣ Length of incident put strain on employees
- ▣ Staying dry
- ▣ Food
- ▣ Condition of the wreckage

# Equipment List from all 8 contractors involved

**HD WRECKERS 6**



**HD ROTATORS 2**



**MD WRECKERS 15**



**SPECIAL EQUIP  
1 SKY TRACK**



**1 RESCUE TRUCK**



**2 DUMP TRUCKS**

**7 SEMI/LANDALL  
3 LOADERS**

# Things that went well

- ▣ Having a person that could be dedicated to working with the EOC
- ▣ Having MSP staged at towing facility to help with vehicle locations
- ▣ Having Companies that can work together with no competition
- ▣ Having a scrap metal recycler company that works in wreckage daily
- ▣ Having 3 storage lots close enough to be productive
- ▣ Having the joint TIMS training allowed for everybody to know each other, what the expectations and jobs are for each entity involved.

# After the incident Challenges

- ▣ Media
- ▣ Organization of vehicles
- ▣ Vehicle owners
- ▣ Invoicing
- ▣ Vehicle identification



# Lessons learned

- ❑ How much time and resources needed from the time the incident starts to when the last vehicle leaves your possession.
- ❑ Organization should be the number one goal when dealing with a scene of this magnitude.

