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## **Co-operation in Road Traffic Incidents**

VIRVE Connects the Main Operators

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# Organisation and Responsibilities

# FTA – The Finnish Transport Agency

## The Finnish Transport Agency founded 1.1.2010

- is a multidisciplinary expert organisation specialising in transport. It is responsible for the transport infrastructure and the overall development of Finland's transport system
- makes effective, efficient and safe travel and transport possible
- promotes the effectiveness of the transport system, traffic safety and a balanced and sustainable development of the regions
- operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.



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# Strategic Goals of FTA

Strategic Goals Direct Our Operations toward the Vision:  
"Effective Transport Connections for a Thriving Finland"

## FOR THE CUSTOMER

1. Well-functioning and safe travel and transport chains.
2. Reduced logistics costs for businesses.
3. Public transport – a competitive alternative in growing urban areas and in intercity traffic. Public transport brings basic services within reach in rural areas.

## THE RESULTS OF OUR ACTIONS TODAY WILL BE SEEN TOMORROW

4. Ensuring safety is our first priority. No harm to people or the environment at sea or on the railways. Road accidents are diminishing.
5. A smaller environmental footprint.
6. We are opinion leaders who fearlessly initiate debates.

## MORE FOR LESS, BY COOPERATION

7. Technology and new practices have improved the efficiency of our operations and made new services possible.
8. Our procurement know-how, the expertise of the service providers and well-functioning markets contribute to efficient and financially successful operations. Productivity in the infrastructure field has increased faster than in the construction field in general.
9. Long-term financing is used and new financing models employed

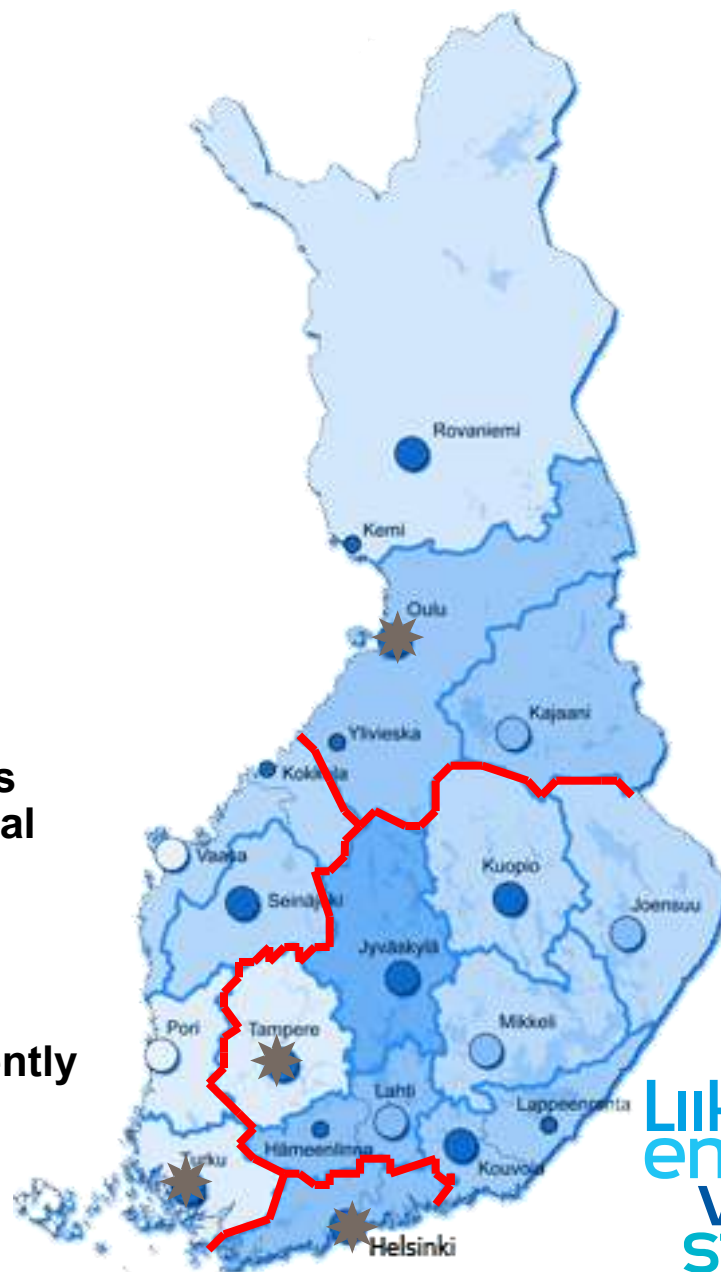
## PEOPLE MAKE THE RESULTS

10. We have succeeded in maintaining and developing our own competence as well as that of our sector.
11. The processes and structures of our organisation promote cooperation and expertise.
12. In our work culture expertise is valued and encouraged.

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# TMC – Road Traffic Management Centre

- Nation-wide concept of operation
  - Four regional offices:
    - Helsinki 24 h / 7 days
    - Turku 24 h / 7 days
    - Tampere 24 h / 7 days
    - Oulu 16 h / 5 days
- Personnel: 44
- As service providers, the regional offices are responsible for areas covering several road regions.
- The division is based on the specific characteristics of the areas concerned.
- The regional offices' activities are efficiently networked.



# Main Tasks of TMC

- Traffic and road weather condition monitoring
- Traffic information dissemination
- Traffic control with variable message signs
- Incident Management  
**in co-operation with other authorities**
- Supporting road maintenance;  
co-operation with road inspectors and contractors
- Precautioning



# Road Traffic Incident Management

# Definitions of Accidents and Incidents

## Road Traffic Accidents

- personal injury accidents
- additional accident dangers
- hazardous substance accidents

## Road Traffic disturbances and incidents

Foreseeable disturbances

- roadwork zones
- planned events

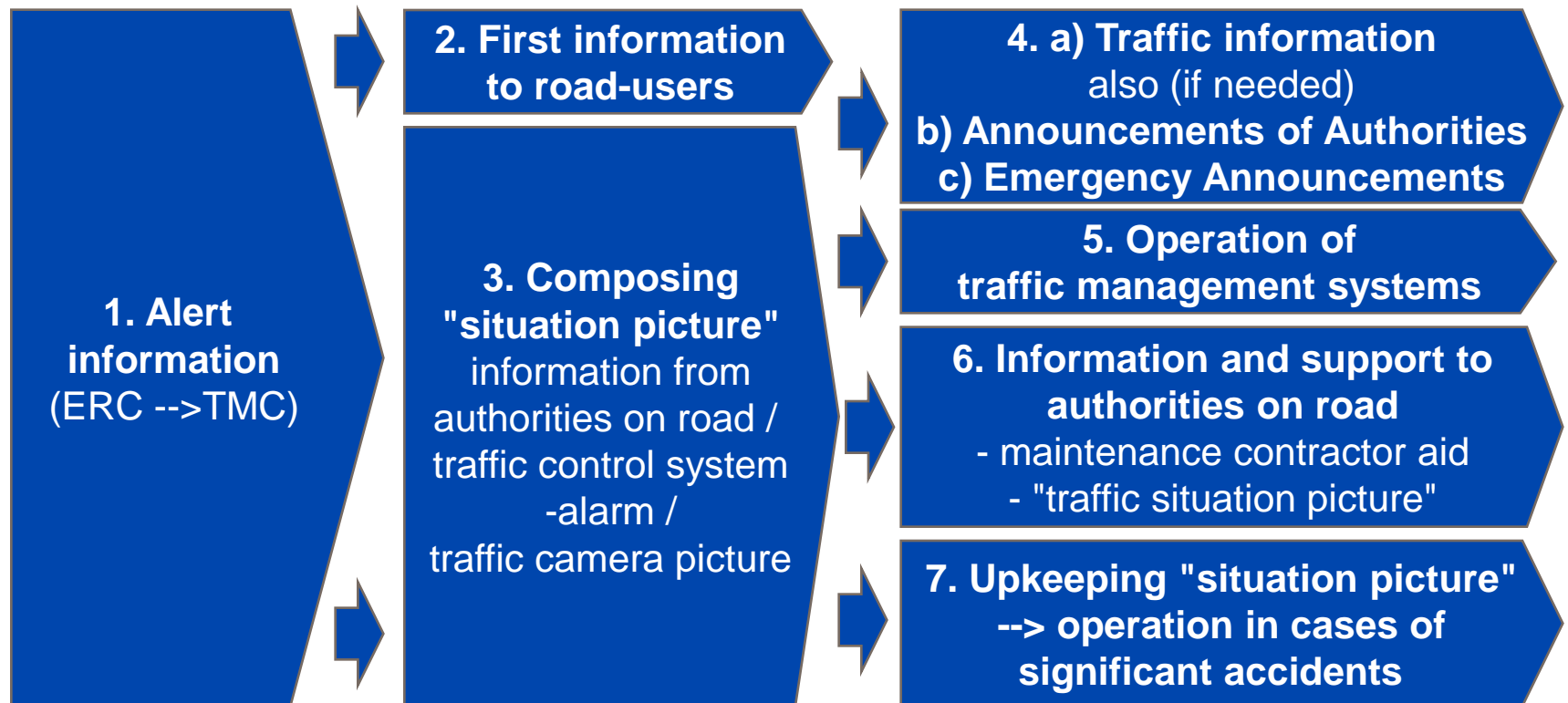
### **Unforeseeable incidents**

- **accidents, goods on road, unexpected traffic jams**
  - lane / carriageway away from traffic → traffic jam
  - temporary road closing → circuitous way

# Authorities and Other Operators in Incidents

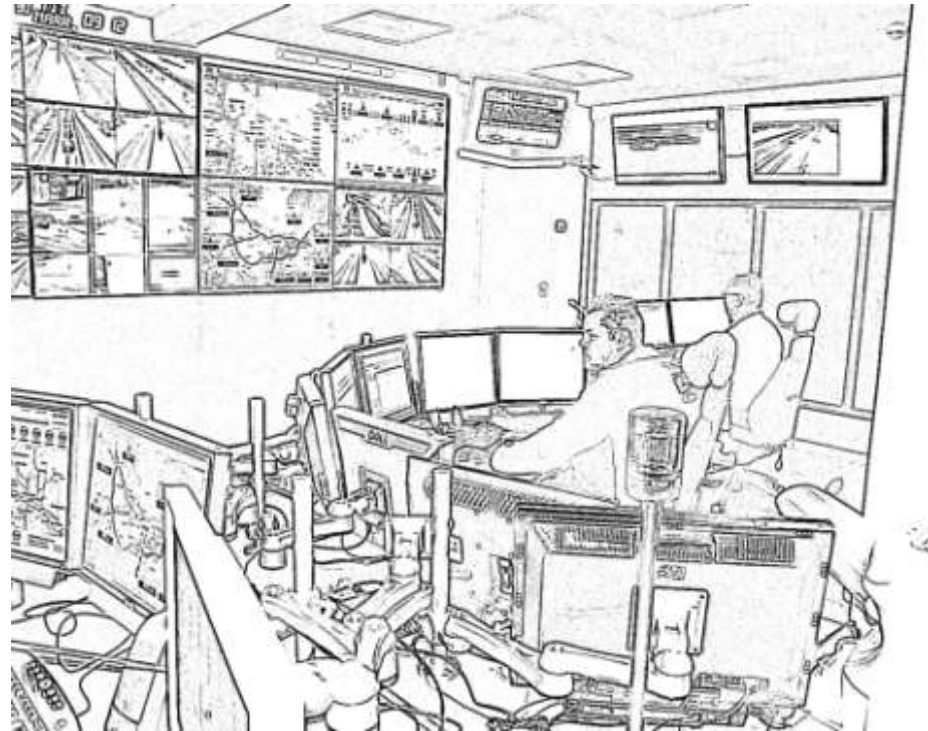
Operation	Operators (mainly)
Units alerting, communication and support	(ERC) Emergency Response Centre
Rescue operations and emergency medical service	Rescue Department and Medical Units
Traffic warning and guiding	Police, Rescue Department
Implementation of circuitous road	Police, (TMC) Road Traffic Management Centre, Road maintenance contractor
Clearing of accident place	Rescue Department, Road maintenance contractor (if needed)
Investigation	Police, Road Accident Investigation Team (if needed)
Traffic information	Road Traffic Management Centre, Radios
Operation of traffic management systems	Road Traffic Management Centre
Repairing of road and road-side facilities	Road maintenance contractor (Maintenance operation request from authorities via Road Traffic Management Centre)

# Operation of TMC in Incidents



# TMC and VIRVE

- Road Traffic Management Centre uses primarily Dispatcher Workstations (DWS).
- THR-radios are used in cases of unexpected DWS malfunctions.
- In co-operation with other authorities are used areal VirKutsu and VirYT-groups as radio communications talk groups.
  - Benefits:  
simple and functional,  
possibilities to use  
nation-widely by the  
same way



# Benefits of VIRVE in Incidents

- Alert information in cases of road traffic accidents from Emergency Response Centres by VIRVE SMS-messages.

→ Alert information reliably and in real-time

→ possibility to send first information to road-users fastly

- Communication between Road Traffic Management Centre and Authorities on road (Police, Rescue Department)

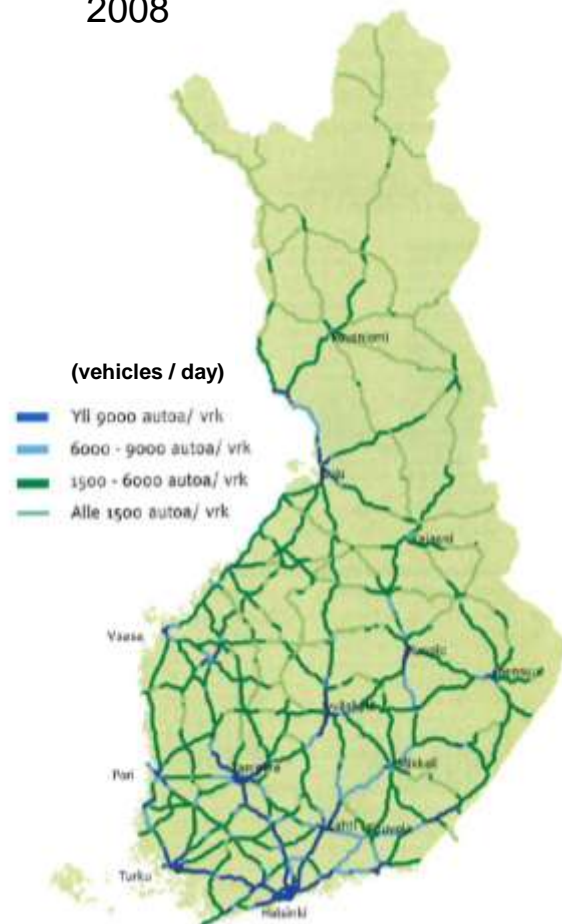
→ Fast contact by VIRVE: VirKutsu- and VirYT-groups

→ Fast contact and communication is needed especially in cases of road tunnel accidents: TMC operates and traffic management systems.

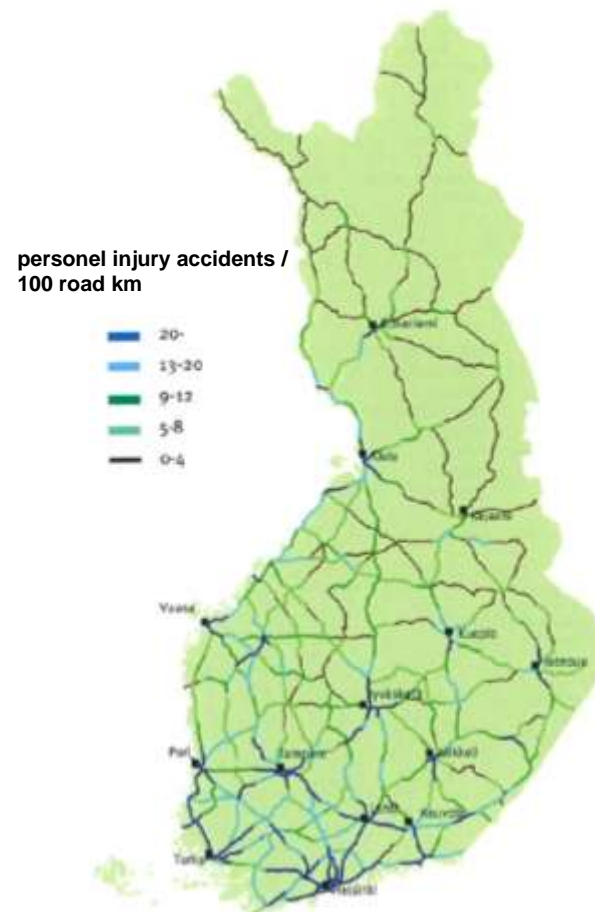


# Statistics: Traffic Volumes and Frequency of Accidents on Main Road Network

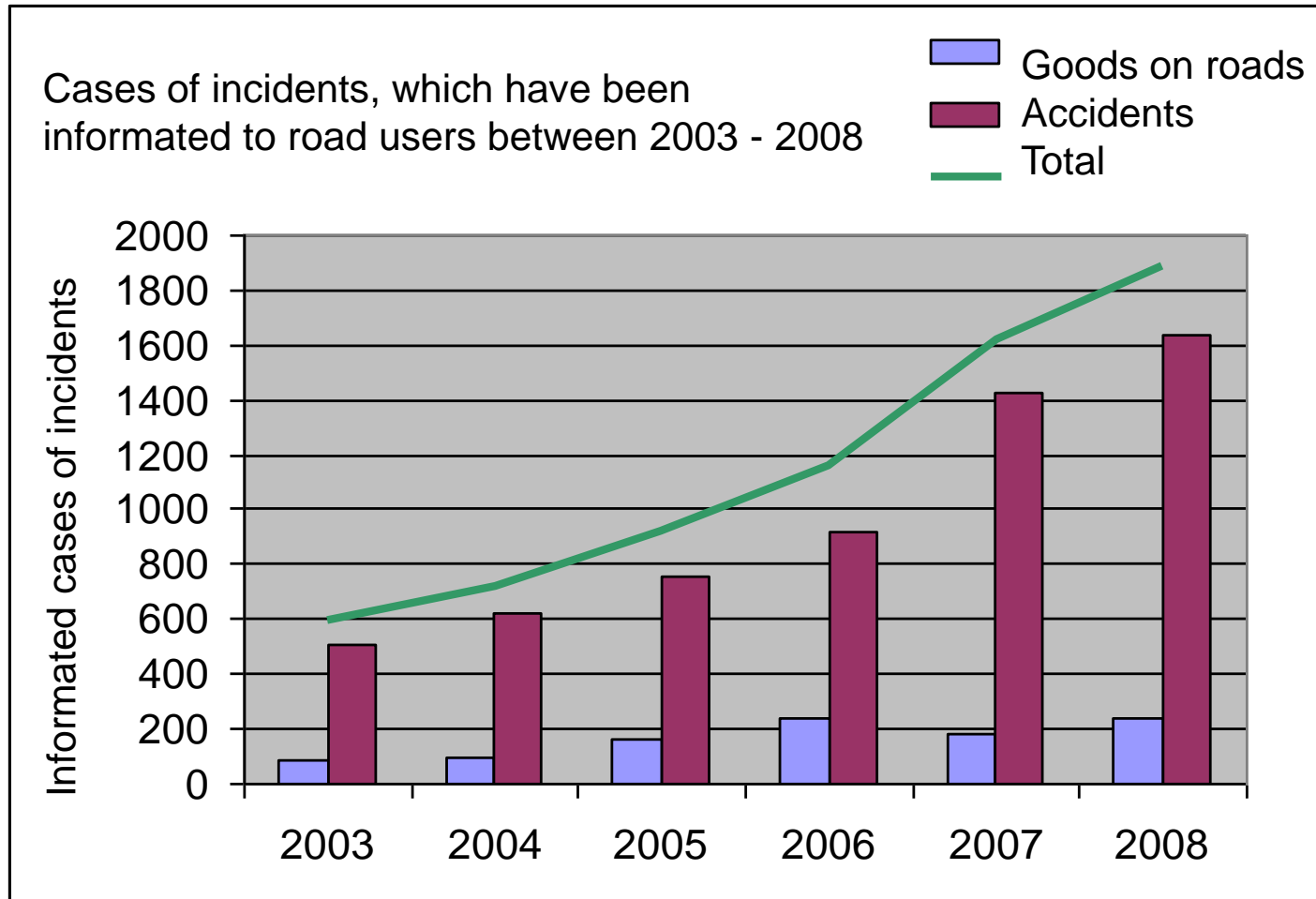
Traffic volumes  
2008



Frequency of accidents  
between 2003 - 2008



# Statistics: TMC as a Divider of Incident Information



# Goals of FTA for Road Traffic Incident Management

- **Traffic Safety**

- **Minimizing the amount of accidents in critical road sections as road tunnels by operating traffic management and information systems proactively**



- **Ensuring traffic smoothness in the cases of incidents with help of co-operation between other authorities**

- **Co-operation between other authorities more intensive especially on largest city regions**

- **Where the traffic volumes are highest, there the injurious effects in cases of incidents are largest too.**

# Questions

## Question 1

**Which is the phone number you may primarily call to in the case of road traffic accident?**

- a) Contact service number
- b) 112 – Emergency Responce Centre
- c) Commercial radio station
- d) 0200 2100 – Road users line
- e) own spouse / own mother

## Kysymys 2

**By which way do you primarily utilize the information services of road traffic?**

- a) by navigator
- b) by radio
- c) by travel and traffic information pages in internet
- d) by TV
- e) by "bush-telegraph"

## Kysymys 3

### When does the traffic jam irritate you most?

In cases you

- a) miss an important meeting.
- b) are late with bringing your children to kinder-garden, school or hobbies.
- c) miss the 1. round of ice hockey match.
- d) you arrive too late to your summer cottage on Friday-night to grill a sausage anymore.
- e) miss the birthday celebration of your mother-in-law.