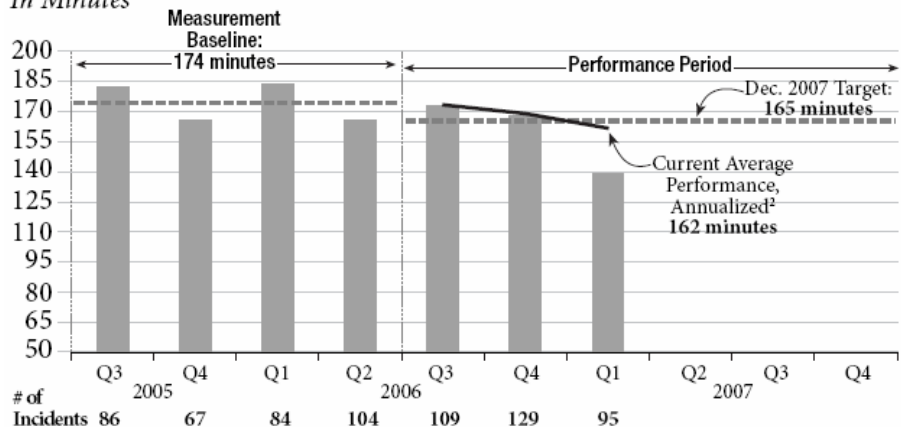


4. Incident Response: Reducing Average Duration of Incidents Lasting 90 Minutes or Longer

### Cabinet Strategic Plan Goal: Reducing Average Duration (Clearance Time) of Incidents Lasting 90 Minutes or Longer On Nine Key Highway Segments<sup>1</sup>

In Minutes



**Source:** 2005-WSDOT Incident Response Tracking System; 2006-WSP-Computer Aided Dispatch System and WSDOT IRT System.  
 1-Selected Key Highway Segments – 1-5 (Oregon to Canadian Border), I-90 to North Bend, I-405, SR 18 to I-90, SR 16 to Purdy, SR 167, SR 520, SR 512, and I-205.

**Data Comments:** *Clearance Time* (for this message only) is the time between first recordable awareness of an incident and all lanes open.

2. Current Average Performance, annualized is the average quarterly duration of incidents lasting over 90 minutes for the performance tracking period for this measure.

### Analysis

Incident Response is a WSDOT and WSP highway safety program that began in 1997 that uses roving patrols to:

- Prevent incidents and secondary collisions through quick detection and removal of disabled vehicles,
- Provide traffic control and/or rerouting,
- Communications, clean up of incidental spills,
- Assistance with incident clearance and clean-up.
- Assists in assuring maximum traffic throughput.

Expansion of the IR program in July 2002, mobilized several IRT units from a 24/7 “call-out” mode to a peak traffic period “roving” mode; it also doubled WSDOT’s IRT fleet to 38 vehicles, adding 19 new “roving” peak traffic period units.

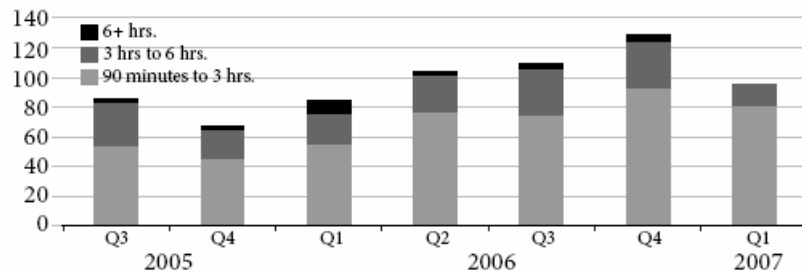
In November 2006, WSDOT and WSP set a goal to reduce the duration of over ninety minute incidents by five percent.

**4. Incident Response:** Reducing Average Duration of Incidents Lasting 90 Minutes or Longer

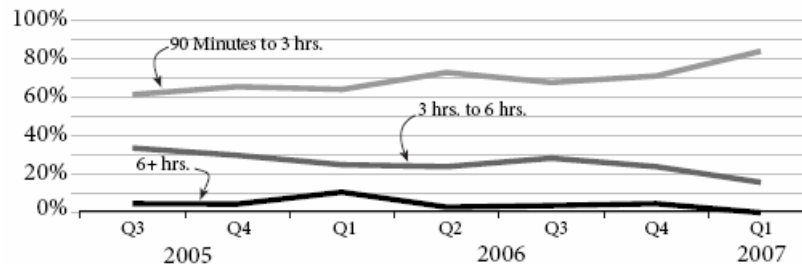
**4. Incident Response Action Plan**

What	Who	When	Status	Forum
Ratify and develop a plan to implement the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management.	Bill Hilton, WSP, and Rick Phillips, WSDOT	9/30/2007	Not Started	May 23, 2007 Transportation Forum
Increase the number of counties allowing offsite extrications of deceased.	Bill Hilton, WSP, and Rick Phillips, WSDOT	7/31/2007	In Progress	May 23, 2007 Transportation Forum
WSDOT 2007-09 Budget funds a low performance program for heavy trucks.	Bill Hilton, WSP, and Rick Phillips, WSDOT	7/1/2007	Not Started	May 23, 2007 Transportation Forum
Instant Towing program.	Bill Hilton, WSP, and Rick Phillips, WSDOT	10/31/2007	Not Started	May 23, 2007 Transportation Forum

## Number of Over 90 Minutes Blocking Incidents by Quarter<sup>1</sup>



## Percentage of Over 90 Minutes Blocking Incidents by Quarter<sup>1</sup>



## Analysis

Between Q3 2005 and Q1 2007 there were 36 incidents involving road blockage lasting 6 hours or more (“extraordinary incidents”). Q1 2007.

- Twenty-two involved a commercial motor vehicle, and at least 10 of the 36 events required a Class C Tow, which means specialized equipment was needed to remove the commercial motor vehicle from the road.
- Others involve public health and safety issues, such as commercial motor vehicle-related hazardous materials spills, criminal activity, and damage to WSDOT property such as bridges or safety barriers that needed to be repaired.

**Source:** Washington State Department of Transportation Traffic Office and Washington State Patrol.

**Data Comments:** 2005 data represents only WSDOT data. This is a smaller subset of the over-90-minute incidents and is not representative of the complete program, which would include incidents that WSP responded to but not WSDOT. WSP data is not available for 2005 because of a changeover to a new database system.