

Providing Highway Safety and Security through **Excellence in Service, Education and Enforcement**

Celebrating Excellence

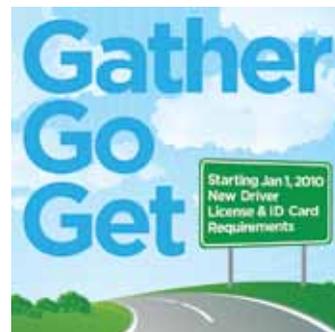
On June 16, Governor Charlie Crist toured Department headquarters and conducted a bill signing ceremony of Senate Bill 1100, re-enacting the Department and establishing a new multiple crash offender program. The bill signing concluded the extensive legislative sunset review process and confirmed the Department's hard work, commitment to excellence, and critical role in the safety of our state's residents and visitors. The re-enactment is especially meaningful as 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Department and the 70th anniversary of the Florida Highway Patrol. *Our Proud Past, Bright Future* is because of our exceptional members who serve Florida's motorists day in and day out.



DHSMV Launches "Gather, Go, Get" Campaign

In January 2010, the Department will begin issuing driver licenses and identification cards that meet new federal standards. Although Florida already has one of the most secure issuance processes and credentials, these changes will enhance our efforts to minimize fraud and identity theft. The Department has implemented a comprehensive public information campaign entitled *Gather, Go, Get* to ensure that our members, partners, stakeholders and the public are aware of how these new requirements will affect them. The Department recently completed the first phase of the campaign that focused on educating Department and County Tax Collector personnel, many of whom are on the frontlines and interact with our customers on a daily basis.

Over the next few weeks we will target our partner agencies - such as law enforcement - via informational posters, brochures and other materials that can be printed from the Gather, Go, Get promotional website at: www.PromoteGatherGoGet.com. The campaign will include informative e-mails that will help promote both the partner and public websites. Law enforcement offices are an integral partner in our efforts to direct an inquisitive public to the resources they will need to *Gather* their documents, *Go* to an issuance office and *Get* their new license or ID card.



Emergency Contact Information System

For nearly three years now, the innovative Emergency Contact Information system has allowed Florida motorists and identification card holders to voluntarily provide emergency contact information online. This spring, the ECI system garnered national recognition as it was named one of the top 50 most innovative government programs by the Ash Institute at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. To date, more than two million people have entered their contact information, which can be accessed by law enforcement officers through D.A.V.I.D. to notify designated contacts during emergency situations. Please remember that Section 119.0712(2), Florida Statutes, limits the use of this information to law enforcement agencies for purposes of contacting those listed in the event of an emergency. We encourage everyone to visit www.flhsmv.gov to enter their information. It could save valuable time in an emergency.

New Highway Safety Legislation

A summary of all new highway safety legislation has been posted to the Department's web site at www.flhsmv.gov/HSMVnewlaws.html. A summary of selected bills is provided below.

House Bill 481 imposes a \$65 penalty to drivers who fail to stop for school buses, who race on highways, or who are charged with reckless driving. Effective October 1, 2009, the bill directs the additional fine collected to trauma centers. The bill also requires drivers convicted for these same violations to attend a driver improvement course on the first offense. A mandatory condition of probation for a first conviction of driving under the influence requires the offender to complete 50 hours of community service. If the judge finds it is in the best interest of the state, in lieu of performing community service, the judge can order an offender to pay \$10 per hour for each required hour of community service, totalling \$500.

The bill provides the judge may only consider whether performing community service would cause the defendant undue hardship when determining whether to order the offender to pay a fine in lieu of community service.

House Bill 405 authorizes seasonal delivery personnel to use golf carts, modified carts, low-speed vehicles, and utility vehicles upon any public road having a speed limit of up to 35 miles per hour, between October 15 and December 31 of any given year. Low-speed vehicles and utility vehicles are expressly authorized for use in all "residential areas," as defined by the bill, on roads with a speed limit of 35

MPH. Golf carts are expressly permitted on roads with a speed limit of up to 30 MPH; and are also permitted on roads with a speed limit of 30 to 35 MPH, when the local jurisdiction has not expressly restricted them. These vehicles must be marked with the delivery company's name, and are authorized to pull trailers. The vehicles must meet minimum safety requirements and have head lamps and tail-lamps when used after dark. Use of these vehicles is limited to "seasonal delivery personnel," a term defined by the bill to include employees of delivery companies having at least 10,000 employees in Florida. The legislation became effective July 1, 2009. **Senate Bill 1100** not only re-enacts the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, but it also includes additional safety provisions by establishing a **multiple crash offender safety program** that will begin January 1, 2010. Drivers with three or more "at-fault" crashes in a three year period will be required to complete a behind the wheel driving course before they are eligible to return to the road. Based on a review of our driver license database for the three year period ending December 2008, there were 3,277 licensed drivers who have had three or more crashes within these three years for a total of 10,281 crashes and 21,353 total violations.

Summary of 2008 Crash Statistics

The 2008 Traffic Crash Statistics Report (including certain jurisdictional information) is now available at www.flhsmv.gov/html/safety.html.

- Fatalities as a result of traffic crashes on Florida roadways decreased to 2,983 from 3,221 in 2007. For the third consecutive year in more than 10 years, traffic fatalities have decreased from the previous year.
- State Mileage Death Rate decreased to 1.50 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2008 (the lowest in state history) from 1.57 in 2007.
- Traffic fatalities of drivers and passengers not using seatbelts, in belt equipped vehicles, decreased to 1,085 in 2008 from 1,201 in 2007.
- Alcohol related fatalities decreased to 1,169 in 2008 from 1,244 in 2007.
- Motorcyclist and passenger fatalities decreased to 532 in 2008, from 550 in 2007.
- Bicyclist and passenger fatalities decreased to 118 in 2008 from 121 in 2007.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased to 502 in 2008 from 530 in 2007.

Trooper of the Year

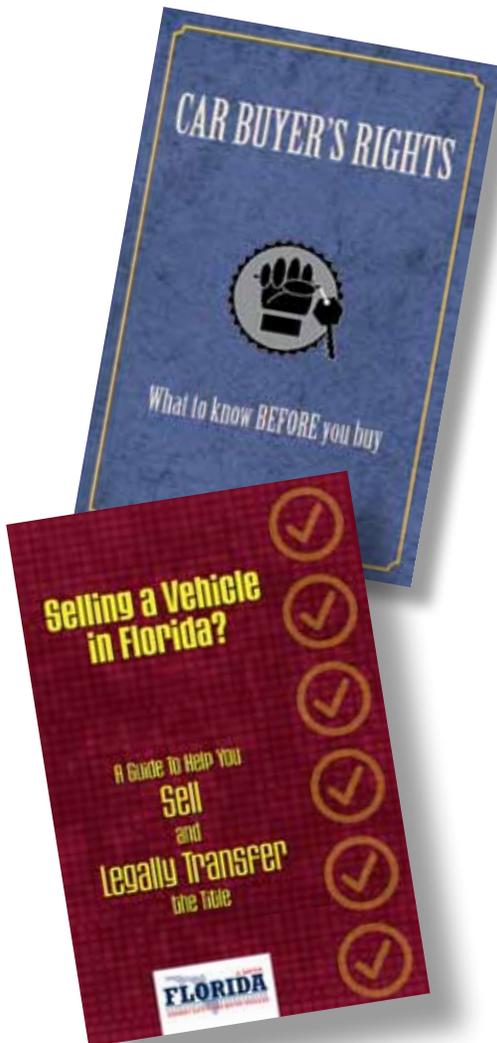
The Florida Cabinet honored Trooper Joshua Earrey by naming him the 2009 Trooper of the Year for the Florida Highway Patrol. Chief Financial Officer Sink sponsored a resolution signed by all the Cabinet members and presented to Earrey and his family at the ceremony. Earrey is assigned to FHP's Contraband Interdiction Program as a K-9 handler in Troop G in Jacksonville, Fla., and he has been with the Patrol since February 2001. He made more than 1,200 traffic charges and 280 drug-related charges during the past year. He is a member of the North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force.

In October 2008, Earrey used his keen senses and law enforcement skills to chase down a suspect. After apprehending him, Earrey learned the suspect had just carjacked a vehicle at gunpoint from a woman and her small child and had fled from local law enforcement officers.



Department Posts Online Guides for Vehicle Buyers and Sellers

The Department recently added two new consumer guides to our website to equip motorists with useful information when buying or selling a vehicle. The seller's guide provides information on what to do before, during and after the sale. The buyer's guide explains what buyers should look for when car shopping, describes buyers' rights, and includes a list of questions to ask. It provides information on Florida's new car lemon law, warranties, titles and much more. In addition to the buyer and seller's guides, the Department provides information on actions to take if dealer goes out of business, tips on buying a car online, and what to know before purchasing a non-traditional vehicle. This information is available at www.flhsmv.gov/SafetyTips/Vehicles.htm.



Community Outreach using FLOW Mobiles

The Department's Florida Licensing On Wheels (FLOW mobiles) have proven to be an effective means of service delivery for many Floridians. Recently, a renewed focus on community outreach has resulted in the use of our FLOW mobiles to provide needed licensing and ID card services to both homeless individuals and those who are about to be released from correctional institutions. We are providing these services in conjunction with various state and local agencies and advocacy groups who realize that such credentials can assist individuals in re-establishing themselves as a contributing member of today's society.



New Fees Effective September 1, 2009

Beginning September 1, 2009, certain fees for driver license and motor vehicle services will change. The new fees were established by the Florida Legislature as part of the state's budget development process, and many changed for the first time in more than 20 years. Customers will receive notification of the new fees applicable to them via mailed renewal reminders or at their local offices. A list of the new fees for the most frequently used motorist services is available online at www.flhsmv.gov/dhsmvfees.htm.

Rapid ID Program Moving Forward

After piloting RAPID-ID technology roadside, the Florida Highway Patrol has received a grant to purchase 1,685 mobile fingerprint devices and the related hardware necessary to provide service to troopers around the clock. FHP piloted this technology with five users and helped develop the system in concert with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. As of July 17, 2009, FHP used the devices 994 times, which resulted in 181 positive hits, 65 arrests and 66 identifications that did not lead to arrests. FHP also used the devices to help identify homicide victims with no identification and assisted other agencies in investigations where an individual's identity was in question. As FHP expands the use of RAPID-ID technology statewide, we join the Collier and Leon County Sheriff's Offices in the successful deployment of this valuable law enforcement tool.

TASERs

The Florida Highway Patrol is now equipping its members with the TASER. Responding to the needs of troopers in the field, the patrol has issued 377 TASERs to troopers already with more to come. Before a member may carry a TASER, he/she must train on how to use it, to include experiencing the effects of a TASER. The patrol has 25 instructors throughout the state to facilitate the training. Troopers usually work by themselves and in some instances, there may be only one patrolling a county at a given time. The TASER provides another non-lethal tool to use in the event that a trooper encounters a combative subject.

Governor Signs Primary Safety Belt Bill

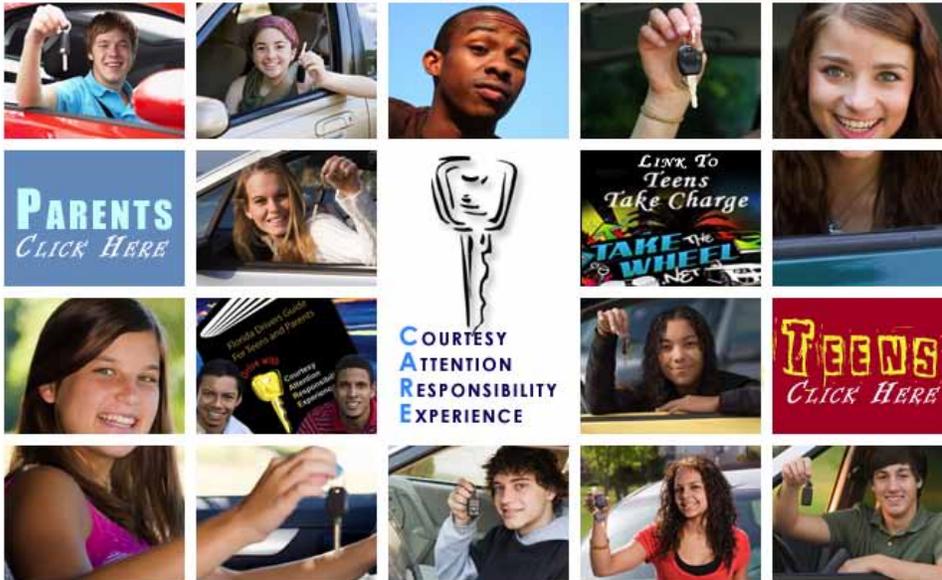
Gov. Charlie Crist signed Senate Bill 344, the Dori Slosberg and Katie Marchetti Safety Belt Law on May 5. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Florida Department of Transportation together publicly commended the Florida Legislature and the Governor for passing and supporting this important safety legislation.

Effective June 30, 2009, the new law allows for the primary enforcement of Florida's safety belt requirements, which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates will prevent 124 fatalities in Florida annually. FHP Troop Commanders have been working in partnership with local law enforcement statewide to increase the public's awareness of the new law. DHSMV Executive Director Electra Theodorides-Bustle and FHP Director, Col. John Czernis joined the Dori Slosberg Foundation for a kick-off event promoting awareness of the new law on June 30 in Boca Raton.

Teen Driving Website Now Has Key Information for Parents

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles launched a parents section on our teen driving website at www.flhsmv.gov/teens. The new and improved website now provides parents with useful information to help them teach their teens to become safe drivers, such as the restrictions for each phase on Florida's graduated licensing program.

DRIVE WITH CARE



www.flhsmv.gov/teens

New Specialty Plates

A new specialty plate has hit the streets in Florida. Proceeds from the Florida Loves Horses specialty license plate will go to the Panama City Marine Institute Foundation Board to provide educational and counseling services for Florida's at-risk boys and girls. A specialty license plate promoting Autism Awareness also will be available soon. Specialty license plates that have become available to the public during the past year include:

- In God We Trust**
- Play Tennis**
- Visit Our Lights**
- Tampa Bay Rays** (redesign)
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers** (redesign)

Safety First Website Offers Tips and More

As a public safety agency, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is working to provide Florida residents and visitors with current information on a wide variety of issues – including consumer protection and safe driving. A new feature on our website is entitled Safety First (<http://www.flhsmv.gov/SafetyTips/>) where you can find timely information related to issues such as the Primary Safety Belt Law, securing your mobile home as hurricane season approaches, or what to do when buying or selling a used vehicle. You can also learn more about the Department's safe driving initiatives related to specific at-risk groups such as teen drivers and motorcyclists.

New Driver License Check Feature

In our continuing effort to offer excellent customer service, the Department's website now provides information to customers regarding their eligibility to elect driver school in lieu of receiving points on their driving record. To access this information, customers can visit our website at www.flhsmv.gov. They then click on "Driver License Check" under the Driver License heading in the middle of the page. Once they enter their driver license number, they will be given information including a statement indicating if the customer is eligible or not to elect driver school. The site also provides the date of the last election and the number of times the customer has elected school in the past 10 years. Additionally, there is a link to the list of approved schools that offer driver improvement courses. The new Web feature allows customers to access the information and receive an immediate response, eliminating the need to contact our Customer Service Center.

Facial Recognition Pilot Project

Facial recognition is one of the most predominant forms of biometrics recognition today and one of the best methods possible of proving that an individual is who he/she claims to be. In fact, facial recognition technology can be better than human identification, with accuracy rates approaching 99 percent according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

In a new facial recognition pilot project partnership with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the Department is working to provide software and services for a two million-image facial recognition system using driver license and identification card images. The initial image set will consist of approximately 1.8 million legacy records from individuals residing within either Pinellas or Hillsborough counties. The image set will be refreshed periodically with new Pinellas and Hillsborough images during the term of the pilot project.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will use a Web services interface for investigative purposes. In addition, the Department will receive five investigator licenses to allow for internal investigation of images within the pilot system. The Department will house the system at headquarters in Tallahassee. Upon the successful completion of the pilot program, the Department will evaluate the feasibility of expanding the program.



Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Electra Theodorides-Bustle
Executive Director

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500

www.flhsmv.gov

DAVID System Usage

The Department developed a new Memorandum of Understanding for data exchange and use and distributed it to all law enforcement agencies who utilize the DAVID system in August 2008. The new MOU requires that an agency ensure its employees are aware of the confidentiality of the information received from the system and rules related to the Driver Privacy Protection Act as well as Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. To date, of the 700 MOU's distributed to law enforcement agencies, we have only received 450 back with signatures from the agency head or authorized representative. The MOU includes the following requirements:

- Information can only be used for legitimate business or law enforcement purpose.
- No personal use of the system is permitted.
- Information cannot be distributed to unauthorized persons.
- All personnel of an agency will be trained and acknowledge their understanding of the use of the system as well as criminal sanctions specified in law for unauthorized use. Acknowledgments must be maintained by the agency.
- The agency must have policies and procedures in place that will ensure the confidentiality of the information received.
- Internal audit methods must ensure proper and authorized use.
- Notification must be provided to DHSMV of any misuse of personal information and notification by the agency to the effected individual of the misuse per Section 817.5681, Florida Statutes.

If your agency has not yet executed the new agreement and returned it to the Department, please do so immediately to ensure uninterrupted access to the DAVID system.

Agencies wishing to obtain status information regarding the MOU can contact Mr. Greg Bickford at GregBickford@flhsmv.gov or (850) 617-3177.

**Gather
Go
Get**

**Starting Jan 1, 2010
New Driver
License & ID Card
Requirements**

Learn what to bring and save a second trip!
Print your own personal checklist at
www.GatherGoGet.com
(850) 617-3995

FLORIDA card
more than a license

Gather your documents.
Go to a driver license office.
Get your new card.