



NEWS RELEASE

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL INITIATES OPERATION SAFE RIDE

~ Enforcement efforts look to reduce crashes ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Col. John Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol, announced today the commencement of a statewide traffic enforcement operation, which focuses on speeding, improper lane changes, failure to use turn signals and aggressive driving violations. The campaign begins today and runs through April 25, 2009. The operation is part of a series of long-term enforcement efforts that focus on top priority, traffic safety issues to help ensure the safety and well-being of motorists on Florida's roadways.

In an effort to provide the residents and visitors of Florida with a safe driving environment during this period, the Florida Highway Patrol is conducting *Operation Safe Ride* statewide.

"We want Florida's motorists to have a pleasant, crash-free driving experience," said Czernis. "Our troopers are here to take enforcement action on those drivers who choose to put themselves and others in danger."

All available FHP personnel are participating in Operation Safe Ride. Troopers use RADAR, LASER, motorcycles and marked and unmarked patrol vehicles to track speed violators. FHP also engages its aircraft to spot violators from the air and then direct troopers on the ground to pull them over and initiate appropriate enforcement action. The Patrol focuses enforcement efforts on every interstate, Florida's turnpike and other major state roads in Florida where speeding and aggressive driving are prevalent.

Please remember to dial *FHP (*347) from you cell phone to contact FHP should you need to report an aggressive driver or require roadside assistance.

The Florida Highway Patrol would like to remind everyone to Move Over when approaching any authorized emergency vehicle or wrecker displaying rotating or flashing lights stopped on the side of a roadway.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is charged with the mission of *providing highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement*. The Department is leading the way to a *Safer Florida* by way of three major components: driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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