



NEWS RELEASE

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRACKDOWN

~ Troopers focus on specific violations to prevent crashes and save lives ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Col. John Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol, announced the results of Operation Safe Ride, an aggressive driving crackdown that FHP conducted on March 18-21 and April 22-25. The FHP's efforts to address growing concerns over speeding motorists, aggressive drivers, and those who fail to use turn signals are part of a long-term traffic safety campaign that focuses on individuals that violate traffic laws in an effort to prevent deaths and injuries on Florida's roadways and change driving behavior.

All available troopers focused enforcement efforts on Florida's turnpike and every interstate and major state road where speeding and aggressive driving are prevalent. They used tools such as RADAR, LASER, motorcycles and marked and unmarked Patrol vehicles to track violators as well as aircraft to spot violators from the air and direct troopers to initiate appropriate enforcement action.

"During Operation Safe Ride our troopers focused on driving practices that put motorists at higher risk for a crash," said Czernis. "Aggressive driving has become all too common. These drivers not only put themselves in harm's way, but they also increase risk for everyone around them."

Operation Safe Ride resulted in 22,185 citations: 10,550 for speeding; 1,804 for safety belt related offenses; 199 for Driving Under the Influence; and 216 for turn signal related offenses. The Patrol identified 344 aggressive drivers during the operation. These statewide, unannounced aggressive driving crackdowns will continue throughout the year to make sure that motorists understand the importance of driving safely and the consequences of poor driving behavior.

The members of the Florida Highway Patrol would like to remind everyone that it is the law to Move Over when approaching any authorized emergency vehicle or wrecker displaying rotating or flashing lights stopped on the side of a roadway. Also, remember that *FHP (*347) dialed from you cell phone contacts FHP should you need to report an aggressive driver or require roadside assistance.

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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