



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: CAPT. MARK D. WELCH
FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL
(850) 617-2301

TROOPERS HEIGHTEN ENFORCEMENT DURING HOLIDAY WEEKEND

~ Florida Highway Patrol aims to reduce crashes~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Florida Highway Patrol will be out in force during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, which begins on May 22, 2009, and extends through midnight, Monday, May 25, 2009. The FHP is participating in three distinct traffic enforcement operations during the period: *Operation C.A.R.E.* - a Combined Accident Reduction Effort, involving all 50 state police and highway patrol organizations across the United States; *All American Buckle Up* week; and the highly publicized *Click It or Ticket* mobilization. All three campaigns focus on saving lives, preventing injuries, and mitigating property damage associated with traffic crashes.

“Vehicle traffic is expected to increase throughout the state during the extended holiday weekend,” said Colonel John T. Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. “The Florida Highway Patrol will use our resources to make Florida’s roadways safer by reminding drivers to slow down and buckle up. Our troopers have a single goal in mind —to save lives and reduce serious injuries associated with traffic crashes.”

All uniformed FHP personnel, including those normally assigned to administrative duties, will patrol interstates and other major state roads throughout the four-day holiday period. The strategy aims to increase the Patrol's presence throughout Florida in an effort to deter traffic violations and to enhance services to motorists who break down while traveling or who need other assistance. Please remember to dial *FHP (*347) from your cell phone to contact FHP to report an aggressive driver or to request roadside assistance.

FHP Auxiliary and Reserve troopers again will volunteer to augment the Patrol’s presence on our highways during the heightened holiday enforcement period.

The Patrol reminds motorists that Florida’s new primary safety belt law takes effect June 30, 2009. The new law will authorize law enforcement officers to stop and cite motorists solely for failure to buckle up.

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