



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 31, 2009

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL KEEPS KEEN EYE OUT FOR RED LIGHT RUNNERS

~ Troopers participate in nationwide campaign ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – If the light is red, you better stop. That is the message from the Florida Highway Patrol as it gears up to participate in the *National Stop On Red Week* scheduled Aug. 2 - 8, 2009.

Troopers will place special emphasis on motorists who fail to stop at a red traffic signal and place innocent pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists in danger. If you think that running a red light is no big deal, then perhaps you should put yourself in the shoes of eight-year-old Hannah Grant and her family from Fort Myers, Fla.

Two years ago, Lynn Grant and her two daughters were turning left at an intersection on a green arrow when a vehicle approaching from their left failed to stop at a red light. It crashed into them at a speed of 55 mph. While Lynn and her daughter, Shannon, suffered minor injuries, the crash put Hannah in a coma for three weeks. She has been paralyzed ever since and cannot talk, walk or feed herself.

“Each year, thousands of innocent people are injured or killed by an impatient driver who does not want to wait a few moments for a red light,” said the Director of the Florida Highway Patrol, Colonel John Czernis. “When the light is green, you should be able to drive through the intersection without worrying about someone else crashing into your car because they are trying to beat the light. A yellow light signals drivers to stop if they can do so safely because the light will soon be red.”

Traffic crashes are the single most significant cause of preventable death and injury in the United States. Last year, red light running in Florida led to 76 fatalities and to crashes that resulted in more than 7,100 instances of injury or property damage. The leading excuse for running a red light is "being in a hurry."

The Florida Highway Patrol encourages motorists to call *FHP (*347) on their cellular phones to report drunk, aggressive or other dangerous drivers. Callers can remain anonymous. Motorists who experience car trouble on the highway or who otherwise need assistance from the FHP also may dial *FHP to request assistance.

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