



FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PRESS RELEASE

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State of Florida Gets Recognition for Saving Lives

TALLAHASSEE – The state of Florida recently received an award from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators nationally recognizing the state for its significant reduction in the number of fatalities involving commercial vehicles. The Florida Highway Patrol was part of this effort and accepted the award on behalf of the state.

“The safety of our state’s residents and visitors is a priority,” said Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp. “With more than 18 million residents and 88 million visitors, we must be vigilant in our efforts to keep Florida highways safe for all drivers and passengers.”

“The Department and our partners in law enforcement have made commercial vehicle safety a priority. We are combating unsafe and fatigued commercial drivers,” said Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Electra Theodorides-Bustle. “We also want to raise awareness among non-commercial drivers of the dangers of driving too close or around commercial vehicles. Improving highway safety for commercial driver license holders starts with all drivers. We are committed to saving lives, and education is one key in doing that.”

“Educating drivers about safe driving distances and proper driving etiquette are critical when it comes to saving lives. The motor carrier industry has an important part in this. We will continue to partner with them while encouraging proactive steps to make sure commercial drivers pull off the roads to take breaks and sleep. We also want to see drivers properly plan trips while buckling up,” added the Director of the Florida Highway Patrol Colonel John Czernis.

John Hill, Chief Administrator for the U. S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration oversaw the presentation of the award and stated that he is glad to see the rate of commercial fatalities being reduced in Florida. In 2005, there were 535 fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles. In 2007, there were 366 fatalities. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators annually recognizes those states that reduce fatalities and increase motorist protection. This year’s awards were presented at their annual conference in Orlando, Fla.

AAMVA develops model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement and highway safety, serves as an information clearinghouse in these areas and acts as the international spokesman for these interests.

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