



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 23, 2009

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL INCREASES ENFORCEMENT FOR THANKSGIVING TRAVEL PERIOD

~ Efforts aim to reduce the number of crashes during the holiday ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Thanksgiving holiday is a peak travel period for families nationwide. Florida is no exception. With its mild, autumn temperatures and numerous vacation attractions, many families enjoy spending their holiday in the Sunshine State. Since Thanksgiving typically produces a high volume of motor vehicle traffic, the Florida Highway Patrol will increase its presence on Nov. 25 - 29. All sworn FHP personnel, including those typically assigned to administrative duties, will patrol Florida's high volume roadways during the five-day period. Auxiliary and Reserve troopers will volunteer to augment the Patrol.

Troopers will direct their enforcement efforts toward impaired driving, speeding, following too closely and other aggressive driving behavior. In addition, troopers will strictly enforce safety belt and child restraint laws, which now authorize law enforcement officers to stop motorists who fail to buckle up.

"The Florida Highway Patrol is committed to making Florida's highways safe, and we plan to do that by bolstering our forces to reduce the number and severity of crashes," said FHP Director, Colonel John Czernis. "I encourage motorists to do their part by complying with all traffic laws and making sure everyone in their vehicle is buckled up."

The Florida Highway Patrol offers safety tips to help you and your family arrive at your destination safely:

- Get plenty of rest before setting out on a long trip
- Observe and obey all speed limits
- Allow plenty of time to reach your destinations
- Drive sober, and only sober
- Buckle up!
- Eliminate distractions: Texting, talking on the phone, eating, adjusting the stereo – these are all examples of things that can take your eyes off the road, which is exactly what you want to avoid.
- Prepare your vehicle: Check fluids for proper levels, i.e. oil, gas and windshield wipers, and ensure your tires have adequate pressure and are in good condition.

The Florida Highway Patrol wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and reminds motorists of Florida's *Move Over Law*. The law requires drivers who approach an emergency vehicle or tow truck stopped roadside with flashing lights to change lanes away from the emergency vehicles if able to do so safely and if not, slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit.

Call **FHP (*347)* to report intoxicated or aggressive drivers, or if your vehicle breaks down and you need assistance. To request immediate emergency services, dial *911*.

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