

## Community Update

**A Safe Holiday Season for All:** The holiday season is a peak travel period for families nationwide. Florida, with its inviting climate and numerous vacation options, is a favorite travel destination. The festive season typically produces a high volume of motor vehicle traffic. The Florida Highway Patrol will increase its presence on our highways and will patrol Florida's high volume roadways during the upcoming holiday period.

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.

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.

May all of you have a happy and safe holiday season!

**Protect Your Family, Your Friends and Yourself:** During the holiday season and year-round, take steps to make sure that you and everyone with whom you celebrate avoid driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Here are some recommendations:

- Plan ahead. Always designate a sober driver before any holiday party or celebration begins, or take a taxi or public transportation to/from a party if you plan to drink alcohol. A taxi or bus ride is much cheaper than getting a DUI.
- Take the keys. Do not let a friend drive impaired.
- Be a helpful host. If you are hosting a party this holiday season, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.
- Mind your meds. Heed the warning labels on prescription medicine bottles because even legal drugs can affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Dial \*FHP (\*347) on your cell phone to report an impaired driver.

The Florida Highway Patrol joins law enforcement organizations across the nation this month to remove impaired drivers from the roadways. The Patrol, often working in conjunction with local law enforcement partners, will conduct sobriety checkpoints and aggressively enforce Florida's DUI laws. FHP will participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* impaired driving crack down from Dec. 16, 2011 to Jan. 2, 2012. To learn more about the Patrol and DHSMV, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV) or visit our [Facebook](#) page.

**Tow-To-Go Offered During The Holidays:** AAA Auto Club South and Budweiser offer to Floridians their **Tow-to-Go** program through Jan. 2, 2012. **Tow-to-Go** provides a confidential ride home and tow, free of charge, to anyone who may have had too much to drink. Since 1998, the program is credited with keeping more than 12,300 drunk drivers off the roads and is designed to protect everyone on the roads from preventable car crashes, not just the intoxicated driver from a DUI. For more information, call 1-800-AAA-HELP or visit [http://www.aaasouth.com/newsandsafety/tow\\_to\\_go.aspx](http://www.aaasouth.com/newsandsafety/tow_to_go.aspx).

**Mobile Services Outreach:** The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles places a high value on customer service. That is why we operate mobile units (*Florida Licensing on Wheels*) that dramatically enhance our ability to make our services more accessible to our customers. The mobile units provide a convenient method to renew a driver license, obtain a replacement driver license, change a name or address on a driver license, get an identification card, renew a vehicle registration and purchase a specialty license plate. Written and driving tests are not given from mobile units.

The mobile units also offer the Department's critical safety services such as registration of [Emergency Contact Information](#) and safety campaigns by the Florida Highway Patrol.

To view the calendar of mobile unit stops, please visit <http://www3.flhsmv.gov/ddl/FlowMobile/index.cfm>. To schedule an appointment to a mobile unit coming to your area, please visit <https://www8.hsmv.state.fl.us/Oasis/web/pages/onlineAppointments.jsp>.

**Trooper Garners Silver Star:** Florida Highway Patrol awards Trooper Edwin Rodriguez the Silver Star for his life-saving actions. On March 28, Rodriguez was in an off-duty capacity at a Starbucks Coffee Shop when he heard a woman and her husband screaming for help. Upon answering the call for help, Rodriguez found the couple's infant son in cardiac arrest. Without hesitation, Rodriguez immediately assessed the child's condition, noticing the child was turning blue and was unresponsive. He initiated CPR while Fire Rescue workers rushed to the scene.

Rodriguez turned the child over to Emergency Medical Service personnel upon their arrival on the scene. Rescue workers found the child to be breathing again as the result of the trooper's swift actions and immediately transported the infant to South Lake Hospital. Rodriguez's heroic actions coupled with his training, experience and quick thinking, saved the child's life.

**Register Your Emergency Contact Information:** If you are in an emergency situation, would law enforcement officers be able to contact your loved ones? Give the gift of peace of mind this holiday season by registering your Emergency Contact Information. ECI allows Florida licensed drivers and identification card holders to register up to two contacts to notify in the event of an emergency, such as a vehicle crash. The information can then be accessed only by law enforcement officers to find designated contacts in the case of an emergency. More than 5 million Floridians have registered their contacts, and DHSMV wants to encourage all of Florida's licensed drivers and ID cardholders to register their contacts. There are 15.5 million licensed drivers in the state.

Registration is simple and can be done at any computer by logging onto [www.flhsmv.gov/eci](http://www.flhsmv.gov/eci). Floridians can register in any driver license office in the state, too, which includes those operated by county tax collectors. The Department encourages you to make sure your own information is registered and to tell your friends and family members about ECI.

**An Appointment Speeds the Process:** When visiting one of our offices to renew, replace or file a change of address to their driver license or identification card, we urge all customers to secure an appointment prior to their visit. Connect via Internet at [www.flhsmv.gov/oasis](http://www.flhsmv.gov/oasis) for an appointment to visit one of our offices.

**Documentation Requirements:** Florida residents seeking a new driver license or identification card, a legal name change on their credential prior to their renewal date, or replacement for a lost or stolen license or ID card, must prepare to show proper documentation. Your ability to complete your transaction in one visit is directly related to coming prepared with proper documentation. The complete list of acceptable documents is available online at [www.GatherGoGet.com](http://www.GatherGoGet.com).

U.S. citizens, permanent residents, immigrants and non-immigrants can secure a complete list of documents to bring to one of our offices by visiting [www.GatherGoGet.com](http://www.GatherGoGet.com), [www.ReunaVengaObtenga.com](http://www.ReunaVengaObtenga.com) in Spanish, or [www.RasanbleAlePran.com](http://www.RasanbleAlePran.com) in Creole.

<b>Fees:</b> Class E (original and renewal)	<b>\$48</b>	Commercial Driver License	<b>\$75</b>
ID Card (original and renewal)	<b>\$25</b>	Endorsements	<b>\$ 7</b>
Driver License Services at Tax Collector office Service Fee			<b>\$ 6.25</b>

***Buckle up your safety belt, always!***