



## Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Compliance Office

# PRESS RELEASE

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Press Release # 08-006

Release Date: 11/8/2008

### FLORIDA LEADS THE NATION IN BRAKE INSPECTIONS

The Florida Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Compliance Office (MCCO) is pleased to announce the results of the enforcement activity from *Brake Safety Week*, which took place September 21-27, 2008. *Brake Safety Week* is part of *Operation Air Brake Campaign*, an ongoing effort dedicated to improving inspection, compliance, maintenance and performance of commercial vehicle brakes throughout North America. Operation Air Brake is sponsored by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, North America's leading commercial vehicle safety enforcement organization.

Florida lead the nation with 1,914 of the 20,416 vehicles checked in the 30 participating jurisdictions in the United States. Florida's activity accounted for 9% of all commercial vehicles inspected during this safety blitz. In Florida, these inspections resulted in 279 vehicles being placed "out of service" for brakes that were inoperative or not properly adjusted. Nationwide, 2,315 vehicles were placed "out of service" for these violations.

Braking systems on commercial vehicles are complicated and contain many parts that need constant inspection to ensure proper operation. Brakes comprise the largest percentage of "out of service" violations cited in roadside inspections. "Faulty braking systems can have severe consequences for vehicles that can weigh as much as 80,000 pounds, 20 times the weight of a typical passenger car," according to Colonel David Dees, Director of MCCO.

During *Brake Safety Week*, MCCO emphasized education and awareness of the safe operation of commercial vehicles. Officers conducted commercial vehicle inspections with emphasis on brake components and provided educational materials to drivers. Variable message boards were also used to communicate the safety message "Have you checked your brakes today?"

For more information, contact Lt. Jeff Frost or Sgt. Jim Ward at 850-245-7900.