



NEWS RELEASE

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AGGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION SAVES LIVES

~ Florida Highway Patrol releases recent enforcement results ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Col. John Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol, today announced the preliminary results of recently completed enforcement initiatives where troopers placed special emphasis on impaired drivers, as well as those who violate Florida’s Move Over law.

From Aug. 21 through Sept. 7, the Patrol participated in the national *Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* campaign and focused on drivers who violated Florida’s Move Over Law during FHP’s *Be Smart, Drive Smart Florida!* effort. Both initiatives ran through the Labor Day weekend.

Preliminary Crash Facts: 8/21 - 9/7

Total Citations = 57,522

Move Over Law Citations = 2,251

DUI Arrests = 540

Troopers issued more than 57,000 traffic citations and made 540 arrests for Driving Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs. They cited more than 20,000 drivers for speeding and more than 2,200 for violating the Move Over law. Troopers also assisted nearly 15,000 motorists, gave nearly 21,000 warnings and issued more than 8,500 faulty equipment notices.

The Labor Day holiday weekend occurred during the last four days of the enforcement campaigns. Troopers issued 16,131 citations during the holiday weekend and arrested 136 impaired drivers. While the total number of fatalities during the recent holiday weekend is yet to be determined, FHP investigated seven crash fatalities. By comparison, during the 2008 Labor Day weekend 36 people died in crashes on Florida’s roadways. The Florida Highway Patrol investigated crashes involving 20 of those fatalities.

“We can attribute part of the dramatic reduction in fatalities investigated by the Patrol to our efforts to educate the public about Florida traffic laws and to enforce those laws,” said Czernis. “FHP will continue to collaborate with our partners in law enforcement on such initiatives to pave the way to a safer Florida. We are very proud of the dedicated service and commitment to highway safety exhibited by our troopers. Doing our job makes a difference.”

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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