



Holiday News Release



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Motorist Safety Breaks And Extended Road Ranger/State Farm Safety Patrols On Florida's Turnpike During Peak Travel Days During Thanksgiving, Christmas And New Year Holidays

ORLANDO (November 20, 2009)—Free Coffee Safety Breaks for travelers on the heaviest travel days during the upcoming Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year Holiday period are among the expanded motorist services being offered by Florida's Turnpike.

Take a Coffee Safety Break on the Turnpike

Florida's Turnpike, Florida Highway Patrol Troop K, State Farm, Areas USA and Florida Turnpike Services urge drivers to take a Safety Break if they become fatigued. On the Eve of Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve motorists may stop at the restaurant or the gas station of any of the eight Turnpike service plazas and help themselves to a free cup of coffee. This complimentary pick-me-up is available **only** at the following times:

- 11 p.m., Wednesday, November 25 to 6 a.m., Thursday, November 26
- 11 p.m., Sunday November 29 to 6 a.m., Monday November 30
- 11 p.m., Thursday, December 24 to 6 a.m., Friday, December 25
- 11 p.m., Sunday, December 27 to 6 a.m., Monday, December 28
- 11 p.m., Thursday, December 31 to 6 a.m., Friday, January 1
- 11 p.m., Sunday, January 3 to 6 a.m., Monday, January 4

State Farm will also be handing out safety pamphlets regarding safe holiday travel.

State Farm Safety Patrol

The State Farm Safety Patrol Road Rangers—who travel the Turnpike in specially equipped pickup trucks to respond to incidents and provide support to FHP to clear crashes, and provide motorists with free roadside assistance for their disabled vehicles—will provide systemwide extended hours of coverage for peak travel days, as follows:

Turnpike Mainline and the Sawgrass Expressway:

- November 25—6 a.m. to midnight in rural areas, 24 hours in urban areas
- Sunday November 29—6 a.m. to midnight in rural areas, 24 hours in urban areas
- December 24—6 a.m. to midnight in rural areas, 24 hours in urban areas
- December 27—6 a.m. to midnight in rural areas, 24 hours in urban areas
- January 1— 24 hours in urban areas

State Roads 417, 429 and 528:

- Daily—6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Veterans Expressway:

- Daily—6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On all other dates, State Farm Safety Patrol Road Ranger hours are:

Turnpike Mainline and the Sawgrass Expressway:

- Monday—Friday—6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in rural areas, 24 hours in urban areas
- Saturday & Sunday—noon to 8 p.m. in rural areas, 24 hours in urban areas

SR 417, 429 and 528:

- 6 a.m.—10 p.m.

Veterans Expressway:

- Monday—Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Additionally, motorist aid call boxes are located every mile along both sides of the Turnpike mainline for travelers who need police, ambulance or roadway services. These are not voice communication devices; instead, electronic signals are transmitted to the Florida Highway Patrol, which dispatches the necessary service vehicles. Motorists may also dial *FHP (*347) or 911 on a cellular phone for assistance. If calling for assistance via cell phone, please be prepared to give an approximate mile-marker and travel direction to the dispatcher—especially important in remote and rural areas.

Check your Tire Air Pressure

Florida Highway Patrol, State Farm and Florida Turnpike Services remind motorists that they should check their tires for proper air pressure when traveling long distances. Cold temperatures may cause the air in the tires to contract and affect the tire pressure.

Before You Leave Home (NOT WHILE DRIVING!)***Real-time Traffic Information Updates***

Before leaving home, motorists should contact the Florida Department of Transportation's new statewide 511 travel information system to receive real-time traffic information. 511 provides free travel and traffic information for Florida's Turnpike system roadways, all interstate highways and major metropolitan roadways to residents and visitors. 511 is FDOT's single source of information for commuter travel times, crashes, construction, lane closures, congestion and severe weather. Customers are able to access the free system by dialing 511 and accessing the new statewide 511 web site (www.FL511.com) to receive free personalized travel information. The 511 telephone service offers bilingual service. FDOT's traffic management centers update 511 in real-time as crashes and incidents occur and roadway impacts are verified.

Florida's Turnpike travelers should pay careful attention to overhead lighted message boards and tune to the Highway Advisory Radio (1640 AM) for updated Turnpike traffic advisories. Flashing yellow lights on the blue Highway Advisory Radio signs indicate an important message is being broadcast.

While visiting the Turnpike service plazas, travelers should check the overhead plasma screen televisions for real-time traffic information. The displays also feature important safety and travel messages, and other information designed to help you reach your destination safely.

Motorists should expect heavy congestion at the mainline toll plazas on the busiest travel days, and be prepared for sudden, intermittent stops, especially near the Leesburg (milepost 288), Three Lakes (milepost 236) and Lake Worth/Lantana (milepost 88) mainline toll plazas. Traffic volumes may increase between 50-76 percent at these three toll plazas on the peak travel days.

Construction Suspended

Regularly scheduled construction and maintenance-related lane closures and restrictions on Florida's Turnpike-operated roads are suspended from 6 a.m., Wednesday, November 25 to 10 p.m., Monday, November 30, 2009, and from Wednesday, December 23, 2009 to 10 p.m., Monday, January 5, 2010 in anticipation of heavy traffic volumes.

A Friendly Reminder from Florida Highway Patrol: Buckle Up and Survive the Drive

The Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Department of Transportation encourage motorists to use extra caution while traveling, and to buckle up. Florida Highway Patrol will team up with local and county law enforcement agencies during the holiday season to deter three key causes of highway fatalities: speeding, impaired driving and failure to use occupant restraints.

Enhanced law enforcement during the holiday break includes DUI wolf packs, and aggressive driving and seat belt enforcement details. Aircraft will assist troopers on the road to seek out and ticket aggressive drivers. For holiday traffic safety tips from Florida Highway Patrol, visit <http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/misc/Christmas/>.

To find out more about the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise statewide system of limited-access roads, call the public information office at 800-749-PIKE (800-749-7453), or visit the website at <http://www.floridasturnpike.com>.



Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, part of the Florida Department of Transportation, oversees a 460-mile system of limited-access toll highways: Florida's Turnpike, extending north from Homestead in Miami-Dade County to Wildwood in Sumter County; the Seminole Expressway and Southern Connector (Toll 417) in Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties; the Beachline Expressway West (Toll 528) in Orange County; the Polk Parkway (Toll 570) in Polk County; the Veterans Expressway and Suncoast Parkway in Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando counties (Toll 589); the Sawgrass Expressway (Toll 869) in Broward County; and the southern 11 miles of the Daniel Webster Western Beltway (Toll 429) in Orange and Osceola Counties.

SunPass is the Florida Department of Transportation's innovative Prepaid Toll Program. SunPass may be used on all Florida's toll roads and most toll bridges. For information on SunPass®, call 1-888-TOLL-FLA (865-5352) or visit <http://www.sunpass.com>.

Travelers on the Florida's Turnpike system of roads may view real-time traffic information by visiting our website at <http://www.floridasturnpike.com>. While traveling in the Orlando, South Florida and Tampa Bay regions, motorists should dial 511 for real-time regional traffic information on the Turnpike and other major roads. This information system is voice-activated; motorists should speak the name of the road they wish to use. They may also visit <http://www.fl511.com> for information. This free service of the Florida Department of Transportation is available 24/7.