



NEWS RELEASE

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Florida's Turnpike Promotes "National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week"



Fort Lauderdale, FL (April 7, 2008) — In recognition of National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week (NWZSAW) Florida's Turnpike fleet vehicles will have an orange ribbon tied to their vehicle antennas. Pictured above is one of Florida's Turnpike State Farm Safety Patrol men tying on his awareness ribbon.

This year National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week (NWZSAW) holds even greater significance to Florida's Turnpike Operations Safety Manager, Wayne Varga. "Recently Florida's Turnpike experienced a work zone tragedy where better driver observation of work zone safety signs may have avoided the loss of two lives. Varga added, because of situations like this everyone has to do their part, both the workers on the road and the drivers. Drivers are urged to follow all advance work zone warning signs and follow the posted speed limits", says Wayne Varga.

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Additionally, signs which read, “Drive carefully my mommy /daddy works here” will be posted along one of the most active construction zones in the state, in Broward County on Florida’s Turnpike. These signs should remind drivers that most of the workers present are parents too.

Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, annually recognizes NWZSAW which kicks off Monday, April 7 and ends Friday, April 11. NWZSAW is a public safety campaign intended to create long term driver awareness while in construction work zones. This program was created as a response to the high number of accidents which have resulted from careless driving in construction work zones nationwide. In 2006, the most recent year for which Florida traffic crash data is available, 3,737 crashes occurred in Florida work zones resulting in 2,822 injuries and 119 fatalities. Of the 119 people killed in work zones, only six were workers. The rest were motorists and pedestrians. Work Zone Fatality Data for 2006 provided by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles through state data query of the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

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