



# NEWS RELEASE

CHARLIE CRIST

*Governor*

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS

*Secretary of Transportation*

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Contact:

Sonyha Rodriguez-Miller

954-975-4855 x1276

Christa Deason

407-532-3999 x3492

## Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to prepare for hurricane season during 75<sup>th</sup> annual amateur radio "Field Day" June 23-24

FORT LAUDERDALE — For the second year in a row, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) will test an important component of its hurricane and emergency preparedness plan—amateur ("ham") radio communications.

From 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23, through 2 p.m. Sunday, June 24, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold amateur radio "Field Day" at its Headquarters in Orlando (Turkey Lake service plaza at Milepost 263) and its Operations Center in Pompano Beach (Pompano service plaza at Milepost 65).

During the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day, more than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country will test their skills in setting up and operating radio communication equipment in situations where electrical power is limited or unavailable. The idea is to simulate the conditions that can occur during a hurricane, tornado or other emergency.

"In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, amateur radio was often the only way to communicate within the affected areas in Louisiana and Mississippi. Should Florida get hit with a hurricane of that magnitude, we want to have every communication tool available," said Christopher Warren, FTE Deputy Executive Director and ham radio operator (KD4FAB). "We want to make sure our recovery efforts are not hampered by a lack of communication."

(more)

As part of the Field Day activities, real-time information about traffic conditions on the Turnpike will be exchanged between the radio operators located in the Turkey Lake facility and those located in the Pompano facility.

Both groups will set up their radio equipment in the parking areas, near the Turnpike service plazas, to make it easy for the general public to view and participate in the demonstrations. Everyone is invited.

Turnpike employees who also are amateur radio operators will participate in the event along with local radio operators. The Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association and the Florida Atlantic University Amateur Radio Club will operate from the Pompano location with added participation from members of the Hollywood Amateur Radio Club. Florida DOT/Turnpike employees Gary Alberstadt (KA3FZO) and Fred Levinson (KF9YL) will be the lead operators at the Turkey Lake location.

Field Day was created in 1933 by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL)—the national association for amateur radio. There are more than 660,000 amateur radio operators in the US and more that 2.5 million around the world.