



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION KICKS OFF WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK**

*~Encourages motorists to make safety a priority when traveling through construction zones~*

**TALLAHASSEE**—Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Assistant Secretary and Governor's Highway Safety Representative Kevin Thibault today kicked off a public safety campaign aimed at educating motorists about the dangers of reckless driving in highway work zones. He was joined by Motor Carrier Compliance (MCCO) Director Colonel David Dees, Federal Highway Administration Acting Division Administrator James Christian, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Director Colonel John Czernis and the DAB Constructors Vice President Bill Bachschmidt.

"Every day motorists take their lives as well as the lives of innocent people in their hands by driving recklessly through highway construction zones," said FDOT Assistant Secretary Kevin Thibault. "Maintaining safety in Florida work zones doesn't just fall on the shoulders of the people who work there. It is the responsibility of all motorists to ensure that roadway construction zones are safe places for workers, drivers and pedestrians alike."

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. At the press conference, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) memorialized those killed in work zones with orange traffic cones donning black ribbons.

"Preventing roadway crashes at work zones is a top priority for the men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol," said Colonel John T. Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "The majority of the fatalities in Florida work zones could have been prevented if motorists incorporated safe driving practices, exercised patience and followed the law."

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**FDOT urges motorists of all ages to drive safely in highway work zones by following these safety tips:**

- **STAY ALERT.** Expect anything to occur when entering a work zone.
- **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION.** Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- **TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS.** Workers and other motorists must see you.
- **DO NOT TAILGATE.** Unexpected stops frequently occur in work zones.
- **DO NOT SPEED.** Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and those traveling around you.
- **DO NOT CHANGE LANES IN THE WORK ZONE.** The time saved just isn't worth the chance.
- **MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS.** Avoid changing radio stations and using cell phones while driving, especially when in a work zone.
- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- **BE PATIENT.** Remember, the work zone crewmembers are working to improve your future ride.

Work Zone Safety Awareness Week will be observed April 7-11, 2008. Beginning May 1, 2008, FDOT will launch a statewide public service announcement campaign with our partners at Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) and Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) to educate motorists on the consequences of reckless driving in work zones. For more information about the work zone safety campaign, please visit [www.itseveryonesjob.com](http://www.itseveryonesjob.com).

**2006 FLORIDA WORK ZONE FATALITIES BY COUNTY**

<b>Bay</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Miami-Dade</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Brevard</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Broward</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Citrus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Orange</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Collier</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Osceola</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DeSoto</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Duval</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Pasco</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Flagler</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Pinellas</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Polk</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Glades</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>St. Johns</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hernando</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>St. Lucie</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hillsborough</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Sarasota</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Indian River</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Seminole</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Lake</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Lee</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Volusia</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Manatee</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Walton</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Martin</b>	<b>1</b>		

\*\*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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