



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: LT. BILL LEEPER
FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL
(904) 695-4104

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL RELEASES *TAKE BACK OUR HIGHWAYS RESULTS*

~ States unite to save lives on America's highways ~

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Chief Grady Carrick, commander of the Florida Highway Patrol's Northern Region, today announced the preliminary results of the recently completed enforcement initiative where FHP teamed up with the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Georgia State Patrol to reduce traffic fatalities and increase safety.

During the week of July 27-31, 2009, FHP increased patrols on the roads from Pensacola to Jacksonville and as far south as Ocala, as part of a multi-state safety campaign called *Take Back Our Highways*. The campaign included Alabama and her border states of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee, and led to an increase in traffic enforcement activities. During the week-long period, the Patrol worked with counterparts from Florida's border states to address traffic enforcement priorities, including jointly operated traffic checkpoints.

Initial reports indicate that Take Back Our Highways led to 5,421 traffic stops in North Florida, to include:

- 2,059 for speeding
- 833 for safety belt and car seat violations
- 177 for careless driving

The Patrol stopped 294 drivers who were driving without a valid driver license, and 194 who had license plates violations. In addition, FHP arrested 58 people on drug charges and 62 who had warrants for their arrest. Additionally, troopers handed out thousands of informational flyers to educate motorists on the hazards of distracted driving as part of a statewide awareness campaign.

“The Florida Highway Patrol often works with local law enforcement organizations to make our roadways safer, and we have seen favorable outcomes,” said Carrick. “We are proud to expand our partnerships beyond Florida's borders as part of the Take Back Our Highways regional initiative. Many Floridians drive in and out of the state, and it is reassuring to know our neighbors are looking out for them just as we look out for their drivers when they visit Florida.”

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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