

ECI Registration Reaches 4 Million

Department urges Floridians to register Emergency Contact Information for when every second counts.

Last month, Florida reached a new milestone – more than 4 million motorists have registered their contacts in the Department’s Emergency Contact Information database. ECI allows licensed drivers and identification card holders to submit two contacts to notify in the event of an emergency, such as a vehicle crash. The information can then be accessed only in the case of an emergency by law enforcement officers to find designated contacts.

“It is reassuring to see the number of ECI registrants climb, but with more than 15.5 million licensed drivers in Florida we still have a long way to go,” said DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. “Our goal is for all Florida drivers and ID card holders to register their Emergency Contact Information.”

Registration is quick and convenient. It can be completed in a state or a tax collector-operated driver license office or from the convenience of home or work through the Internet at www.flhsmv.gov/eci. There is no cost to register your contact information.

The ECI program began in 2006 and has garnered national recognition. Oct. 3-9, 2010, was designated as *Register Your Emergency Contact Information Week* in Florida.

You, too, can help the Department promote this valuable service by telling motorists, friends and family members about it. If you are on Facebook, you may want to check out and even join DHSMV’s [Facebook page](#) for ECI.



Department Seeks Expanded DUI Enforcement Assistance

During the upcoming legislative session the Department is seeking approval to expand the current authorization of health care providers as it relates to potentially impaired drivers. Current law allows health care providers to notify law enforcement when they become aware that a person involved in a motor vehicle crash has a blood alcohol level that exceeds the allowed limit for driving. To enhance public safety, the Department is looking to expand that authority to include notification to law enforcement by health care providers when they are aware that a person has driven under the influence of a controlled substance.



FLHSMV.gov Gets a Makeover

Have you visited the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ homepage recently? If so, then you may have noticed recent changes. The Department rang in the new year with a new homepage on our website. The goal was to simplify the homepage and make information that visitors seek most often, easier to find. The modifications do not make any significant changes to the content that is available on the website; it simply reformats and simplifies the manner in which the information is accessed.

License Plate Readers Help Officers Identify Expired Plates and Sanctioned Drivers

In September 2010, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles worked with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to provide files for use in License Plate Readers related to Florida expired tags and sanctioned drivers. Currently, DHSMV uploads new files to the FDLE Hot List site every month. Plans are in the works to update the Hot List weekly, soon. The information can be accessed by law enforcement agencies on the Criminal Justice Network, so that officers can look up information on recently expired Florida license plates and on drivers whose licenses have been suspended, revoked or cancelled.

DHSMV and FDLE worked together to update the License Plate Reader Supplement to the Criminal Justice User Agreement to include use of DHSMV data. Each agency that wants to use the DHSMV data must initiate a new License Plate Reader Supplement to the Criminal Justice User Agreement with FDLE. The most current LPR Supplement Agreement is dated September 2010.

Any agency that needs the most current supplement or that would like more information, may contact Larry Coffee (FDLE) at (850) 410-8192.

Traffic Fatalities Continue to Decrease in Florida

Preliminary figures show crash fatalities decline for fifth year straight.

Florida ended 2010 with 2,430 traffic crash fatalities, a three-decade low and an annual decrease of more than five percent, according to preliminary data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. By comparison, 2,563 people died in traffic crashes in 2009. What's more, the number of crash fatalities is the lowest the state has seen since 1978 even though the Sunshine State's population has doubled since that time.

"It is encouraging to see the number of traffic fatalities continue to drop, and the Department will continue our efforts to educate motorists and aggressively enforce the traffic laws to create the safest possible driving environment," said DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. "Unfortunately, we know all too well the devastating impact that even a single fatality resulting from a careless, inattentive or impaired driver can have on a family and community."

The final count for 2010 will be made available later this year when the Department publishes its annual *Traffic Crash Statistics Report 2010*. Reports from previous years are available online at www.flhsmv.gov/html/safety.html.

"The Florida Highway Patrol is committed to patrolling the roadways around the clock every day of the year to safeguard motorists and remove dangerous drivers from our roadways," said FHP Director, Colonel John Czernis. "Our law enforcement partners and public safety stakeholders deserve a great amount of credit for their efforts to keep our streets safe, too. Motorists can also do their part when they buckle up every ride, every time."

Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of people between the ages of 5 – 34, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC reports, "seat belt use is the single most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes" and "using seat belts reduces serious injuries and deaths in crashes by about 50 percent."



New Florida Traffic Crash Report Form

The Department implemented the new Florida Traffic Crash Report Form on Jan. 1, 2011. The primary purpose for implementing the new crash form was to increase compliance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria. The new form includes 33 new fields and approximately 520 new attributes. The new fields provide officers with more selections to add information on safety equipment, commercial vehicles and crash conditions. Also, the new form

facilitates more detailed information on the driver, passenger and non-motorist.

The Department continues to encourage law enforcement agencies to submit crash reports electronically. Electronic submission allows edits that improve data accuracy while substantially improving timeliness and reducing costs. Crash data becomes more reliable and useful to Department stakeholders, such as local and statewide law enforcement, traffic and roadway engineers, and local and

statewide parties developing safety initiatives. Since adopting the new Florida Traffic Crash Report Form, the number of law enforcement agencies capable of electronically submitting crash reports to the Department has increased by more than 500 percent. Currently we have more than 60 law enforcement agencies capable of electronic submission. If you have questions about the new form, you may contact Jim Hage (DHSMV) at (850) 617-3440.

Florida Successfully Implements New Driver License, ID Card Requirements

Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, Florida became one of the first states in the nation to issue Real ID compliant credentials. The change brought on new documentation requirements for Florida residents who wish to obtain a driver license or identification card. During the first year of the new requirements, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and our tax collector partners issued nearly 3.5 million new cards with the gold star in the upper right corner indicating compliance with the new identification requirements. The Department received national recognition for the changes in July when the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License, a Washington D.C. based non-profit, presented its Homeland Security Award to DHSMV.

Customers who wish to obtain a new or renewed license, legally change their name prior to their renewal date, or immediately replace a lost or stolen license or ID card are required to visit a driver license office and show proof

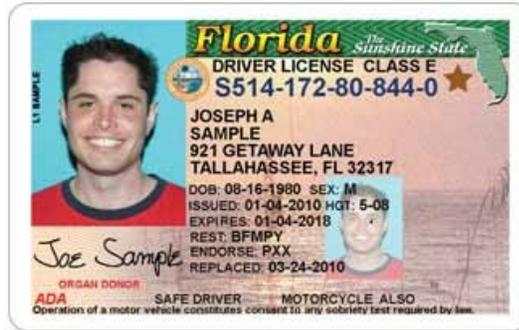
of identity, Social Security number and residential address (two items). Anyone who has changed their name must bring additional documentation to show proof of legal name change.

To prepare for a visit to a driver license office, customers are visiting the Department's interactive website, www.GatherGoGet.com, to find out how and when to gather the right documents, go to a driver license office and get a new card. Customers visited the website, also available in Spanish and Creole, more than 2 million times in 2010, as they successfully obtained information that helped them collect required documents, create personalized checklists, and locate the closest driver license offices in their area.

The Department, in partnership with many of Florida's county tax collectors, offers driver license and ID card services. While the new documentation requirements began last year, Florida residents may not have to visit a driver license or tax collector office right

away. Customers can verify when they need to visit an office with the required documents by visiting www.GatherGoGet.com. Many customers may be eligible to renew online or via mail, one time between

office renewals. The renewal following a convenience option must be in a state driver license office or a participating tax collector office where new requirements are in effect.



Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Julie L. Jones
Executive Director
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-0500

www.flhsmv.gov

Gather Go Get

Starting Jan 1, 2010
New Driver
License & ID Card
Requirements

Learn what to bring and save a second trip!
Print your own personal checklist at
www.GatherGoGet.com
(850) 617-3995



Gather your documents.
Go to a driver license office.
Get your new card.

