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EMERGENCY CONTACT INITIATIVE ONE OF THE TOP 50 INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNMENT

~Register your Emergency Contact Information today! ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Emergency Contact Information system recently garnered national recognition as one of the top 50 most innovative government programs. The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University today announced the 2009 Top 50 government innovations competing for the Innovations in American Government Awards. More than 600 applicants competed for the honors, representing the work of city, county, state, federal and tribal government agencies. The institute will announce its six award winners in September.



Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, whose office oversees the Department, applauded the effort stating, "ECI is an innovative solution that has made a difference in the lives of Floridians. I congratulate the Department for this honor and in making ECI a reality. I encourage all Floridians to take advantage of this program."

Two years ago, the Department implemented the Emergency Contact Information system that allows Florida motorists to voluntarily register their emergency contact information online using their Florida driver licenses or identification cards. The information can then be accessed only by law enforcement officers to find designated contacts in the case of an emergency.

The concept for ECI came about after the tragic death of Tiffiany Olson who died in a motorcycle crash in 2005. Law enforcement did not have any contact information to timely notify her mother Christine Olson of the crash which led to her daughter's death. Christine Olson and her local lawmaker, Representative Bill Galvano, brought an idea to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to allow people to register and law enforcement to access emergency contacts so that other loved ones might not have to suffer as she did.

"ECI is a great example of turning tragedy into triumph, and we are proud to have been a part of implementing this important service. I commend both State Representative Galvano and Ms. Christine Olson for their vision and tenacity in helping the Department implement this incredible service," said DSHMV Executive Director Electra Theodorides-Bustle. "Since the creation of ECI more than two million people have registered their contacts and law enforcement officers have accessed the system thousands of times. I encourage each Florida driver license and ID card holder to log onto www.flhsmv.gov/eci today to register their emergency contacts. It takes only a minute to register your contacts and give your loved ones peace of mind."

To register your Emergency Contact Information, visit www.flhsmv.gov/eci. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is charged with the mission of *providing highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement*. The Department is leading the way to a *Safer Florida* by way of three major components: driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DSHMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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