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NEWS RELEASE

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CALL FDOT'S 511 TRAVEL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR ROADWAY INFO DURING WILDFIRES

ORLANDO, FL. — Florida residents and visitors who need the latest information about travel conditions during wildfires should call the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) free 511 Travel Information System. During times of limited visibility due to wildfires, travelers can get up-to-the-minute reports on major evacuation routes, bridge and road closures, and roadways with toll suspensions by calling 511 or visiting the FL511.com Web site.

"We take shutting the roads down seriously because that's people's livelihoods," said Sgt. Kim Miller of the Florida Highway Patrol. "Some of the smaller roads may not get shut down. We have to rely on drivers using caution."

FDOT reminds drivers to slow down, turn on low beam lights and only use flashing lights when pulling off the road in low visibility conditions.

"511 is a safety tool we advise people to use every day and during an emergency to get updates on road conditions before traveling," said Miller.

In addition to the free 511 phone system, travelers can access real-time traffic information, traffic cameras, lane closures and emergency alerts online at www.FL511.com. The FL511.com Web site also provides links to county emergency informational resources, weather reports and advisories.

The 511 resource is free, however cell phone minutes apply. Following these safety tips will make your travel safer:

1. Call 511 before driving, at a rest area or have a passenger call to avoid talking while driving.
2. Call 511 before you enter a new roadway to become aware of the current road condition.
3. Customize your trip before leaving at www.FL511.com to minimize time spent on the phone.
4. Drive slowly and keep your lights on in low visibility.
5. Always wear a seat belt.

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