

# Keeping Safe On Our Roads

Growth and traffic issues in our region continue to increase the risk of transportation accidents, making our area vulnerable to all types of transportation emergencies including road, air, rail and marine accidents.

## On the road:

- When on the road, drive defensively and avoid aggressive driving behaviors that commonly cause accidents.
- If you have witnessed or are a victim of multiple aggressive driving acts including road rage, you can report it by calling 9-1-1 or \*FHP (in Florida only) on your cell phone.
- Pay attention to your driving and refrain from using your cell phone and other activities that may cause you to be distracted.

## What to do before a transportation accident:

- Be prepared for major traffic delays in the event of a traffic accident.
- Make sure you have a disaster kit for your car.
- Plan alternate routes to and from work, school and other important destinations.
- Keep your gas tank at least half-full at all times in the event you get stopped or delayed in traffic.

## After a transportation accident:

- Follow the instructions of emergency officials.
- Monitor your radio for emergency information and instructions.
- Remain in your vehicle unless directed to do otherwise.
- Keep your eye on the road and those directing traffic! Trying to see what's going on at an accident scene slows traffic movement, puts emergency workers at risk, and often causes additional accidents and injuries.
- Be sure to keep at least a half-tank of gas in your vehicle at all times; power outages often accompany disasters and gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.



SPONSORED BY THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY EMS TASK FORCE FLORIDA STATE STATUTE 316.126

If you or someone you love is in need of emergency assistance, you want help to get there right away. Did you know that there's one thing everyone can do to help the firefighters provide this emergency assistance as quickly as possible? It's as simple as Moving to the Right for Sirens and Lights!

Year after year approximately 25 percent of firefighters killed in the line of duty are responding to or returning from incidents, with the majority of the fatalities the result of vehicle crashes. This represents the second leading cause of firefighter fatalities, second only to stress/overexertion. Additionally, numerous firefighters have died working at emergency incidents from being struck by vehicles.

## The Move Over Law in Florida

- On a two-lane roadway, you are required to slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit.
- If the speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less, you must slow down to five miles per hour.
- If you are driving on an interstate or roadway with multiple lanes of travel in the same direction, and you approach an emergency or law enforcement vehicle parked along the roadway, you must vacate the lane closest to that vehicle as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Violating the move over law puts both yourself and a public safety professional at risk.
- Violating the move over law can result in a fine and points on your license.

**For more information about Florida's Move Over Law, please visit or contact [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp).**