



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***FDOT ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO ROAD RANGER PROGRAM*** ***Hours and services are impacted by state budget cuts.***

(Fort Lauderdale, Florida – August 25, 2008) – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four announces changes to Road Ranger patrol hours and services. In the near future, there will be fewer trucks on the road, limited weekday service, and restrictions on fuel distribution. Each FDOT District may experience different changes to their program

FDOT District Four Road Rangers will continue to cover I-95, I-595 and I-75 in Broward County as well as I-95 in Palm Beach County however, drivers can expect the following changes:

- In Palm Beach County as of September 1, 2008: Road Rangers fleet will be reduced from seven to five trucks. Hours will be 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- In Broward County as of October 1, 2008: Road Rangers fleet will be reduced from twelve to ten trucks. I-75/Alligator Alley will be covered from the eastern toll plaza to Mile Marker 50 on an on-call basis. Hours will be 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- Motorists will be asked to try starting their vehicle before receiving gas assistance. If gas is needed, Road Rangers will provide up to one gallon.

Analysis of historical data shows that 75 percent of motorist assists and 70 percent of crashes occur between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Road Rangers will offer motorist assistance but will place emphasis on incident management. To offset the reduction in Road Ranger service hours, motorists are encouraged to be responsible for their fuel level and other vehicle maintenance.

The Road Rangers are dispatched by operators at the SMART SunGuide TMC and the Palm Beach Interim Traffic Management System (ITMS), 24-hour facilities serving Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The TMCs monitor freeways and major arterial routes with closed circuit TV cameras, speed sensors, traffic signal control devices along with the Road Ranger Service Patrol vehicles. In coordination with local law enforcement and fire rescue, TMC operators identify and respond aggressively to quickly clear incidents, disabled vehicles and other interruptions to traffic with the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) equipment. Information from the TMC is displayed on Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and on the region's 5-1-1 Advanced Traveler



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Information Service. For real-time traffic conditions or information about the SMART SunGuide TMC, please visit [www.SMARTSunGuide.com](http://www.SMARTSunGuide.com).

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