



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***TREASURE COAST WELCOMES FDOT ROAD RANGERS*** *FDOT Service Patrol to Commence Sept. 6*

(Fort Lauderdale, FL – Sept. 2, 2010) – Starting Monday, Sept. 6, Road Rangers will be patrolling Interstate 95 in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties, looking for crashes, disabled vehicles, stranded motorists and debris. Their job is to help clear the roadway and keep traffic flowing.

The service is being provided by Anchor Towing and Marine Transport of Fort Lauderdale under a five-year contract with the Florida Department of Transportation District Four. Anchor Towing is an experienced Road Ranger contractor, providing the same highway assistance services in the Miami, Fort Myers and Tampa Bay areas.

Road Rangers service patrols are one of the most effective components of traffic incident management. Initially created to assist disabled vehicles in construction zones, the program was expanded to include other types of roadway mishaps. Road Rangers make the highway safer in the following ways:

- Often arriving at an accident before law enforcement or fire rescue, Road Rangers will protect the scene by setting up cones to direct traffic around the incident. If possible, they will push or pull vehicles from travel lanes to a safe area.
- The arrow board on the back of the trucks can be used as a warning for drivers to move over or display a message sign about problems ahead on the highway.
- The trucks carry a variety of equipment and materials to fix a flat tire, jump start a dead battery or make minor repairs. The service is free of charge to motorists.
- Among the benefits of the program are increased safety at incident scenes, a reduction in secondary crashes and a decrease in incident duration.
- Road Rangers also act as FDOT's eyes and ears on the interstate, watching for suspicious vehicles or persons.

On the Treasure Coast, Road Rangers will operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be eight trucks and a roaming supervisor on the highway in the three-county area during these hours.

Road Rangers have assigned beats, but will go where needed in the event of a major incident. The limits of the beats are:



**Florida Department of Transportation**  
**SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center – District Four**

2300 West Commercial Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309  
Telephone (954) 847-2785 / Fax (954) 847-2683



- Beat 1: Donald Ross Road to Bridge Road.
- Beat 2: Bridge Road to High Meadows Avenue
- Beat 3: Kanner Highway to Martin Highway
- Beat 4: Martin Highway to St. Lucie West Boulevard
- Beat 5: Gatlin Boulevard to Okeechobee Road/SR 70
- Beat 6: Midway Road to Indrio Road
- Beat 7: Indrio Road to Osceola Boulevard/SR 60
- Beat 8: Osceola Boulevard/SR 60 to Fellsmere Road

Road Rangers hand out comment cards to motorists for feedback on their experience. FDOT uses the comments to improve service. In 2009, Road Rangers were involved in 68,336 service assists in FDOT District Four and 296,041 statewide.

To request Road Ranger assistance, dial \*FHP (\*347).

The Treasure Coast Road Ranger Service Patrol will be dispatched from the Florida Department of Transportation's Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC), a 24-hour facility run by the Florida Department of Transportation District Four. The TMC monitors freeways with closed circuit television cameras, speed sensors and a fleet of 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 and on Florida's 511 Travel 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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