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SMART Moves

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Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Develops Statewide, On-Line, Web-Based Training Program for Road Ranger Service Patrols

The Road Ranger Service Patrol program is funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. It is made up of roving vehicles that patrol the highways to provide free "limited" service to stranded motorists and assist the Florida Highway Patrol during incidents that block travel lanes. (Motorists can request Road Ranger assistance by dialing *FHP from their cell phones.)

Training is an important element of the program. Because the Road Ranger contracts are bid out to various private companies and the high turn-over rate of the tow-truck industry, providing consistent and timely training throughout the state is a challenge.

Available now, at no expense, is an on-line web-based training program. The training program consists of ten modules that were developed jointly by all of the FDOT Road Ranger Project Managers from across the state. New employees can access the program from any computer with internet access, anytime and their test results are emailed directly to the District they service.

To learn more about FDOT's on-line Road Ranger Training Program, please visit our website at www.RoadRangerTraining.com or contact Guy Francese at 954.847.2797.

Another Successful Road Ranger / TMC Operator Joint Training

The SMARTSM SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) hosted another successful Road Ranger / TMC Operator Joint Training in July and August 2006. (The first training took place in September 2005.) This unique learning experience brought together Road Rangers and TMC Operators from both Broward and Palm Beach Counties providing them an opportunity to gain insight into each other's roles and responsibilities and to better understand the challenges faced by each. Florida Highway Patrol and the Severe Incident Response Vehicle team also participated in the training.

The two-day training session included topics such as safety, communications, and incident response. The material was presented through presentations and participation in various exercises. At the conclusion of the training, participants were asked to provide feedback and suggestions for future training; many of which will be implemented during the next session scheduled for early 2007.

Road Ranger Honored for Saving Deputy

On July 3, 2006 Cesar Cintron, a Road Ranger for three years, and Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Deputy Shannon Belanger received an award for saving the life of BSO Deputy Michael Rosenbluth. Deputy Rosenbluth was hit by an out-of-control car and thrown over the westbound side of Interstate 595 just west of 95. Cintron and Belanger helped haul him to safety as he hung 100 feet above the ground.

