



MAY

May is the fifth month of the year . . . Does time really fly when you are having fun?

The month may have been named for the Greek goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May.* May is also rumored to be the month that brings us all the flowers that were eager to receive April's showers. However, Mother Nature certainly did not intend to send so many April showers early in the month that caused widespread flooding in several north Florida counties.

May Highlights include:

- Kentucky Derby (2nd)
- Mother's Day (10th)
- Indianapolis 500 (18th)
- International Nurses Day (12th)
- Memorial Day (30th, celebrated on 25th)

* Wikipedia

May is also

Click It Or Ticket Month

Did you know that proper use of your safety belt is the easiest and most effective way of reducing fatalities due to highway crashes? When properly used, lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front seat passenger car occupants by 45% and reduce the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50%?

During the month of May, media ads will be aired stressing safety belt use and law enforcement will be out enforcing the law and writing tickets.

Please, wear your safety belt, every trip - every time. And, ensure that every passenger in your vehicle wears theirs also.

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TECHNOLOGY – LIVE WITH IT

By: Alaxon Pitts

D-3 Safety and Health Manager

Technology is growing at a pace faster than we can imagine. Only a very few years ago, cell phones ipods, DVD's, Lap-tops, GPS's, BlackBerry devices and the like were only seen in the movies. Today, one or more of these items are found in most every home and automobile in the country. Naturally, we have become accustomed to using these gadgets and it seems as though many of us, especially the younger generation, cannot function without having one of them within arm's reach. It is amazing how technology can affect our lives.

This is a Safety newsletter, and you may be asking, "What has this got to do with safety?" Well, all of these high-tech devices are great and they can help us communicate faster, get information quicker, entertain us, and yes help us do our jobs better. But, all of these things can actually be unsafe... when used by a person while operating a vehicle. I recently read an article about a driver in California who while speeding and text-messaging crashed into a line of vehicles stopped at a construction zone. The vehicle that was struck burst into flames killing the occupant. Investigators determined that the speeding driver had paid several bills by cell phone in the moments before the crash and was in the middle of one of those transactions when the crash occurred. The text-messaging driver was sentenced to six years in prison. It is tragic how the use, or misuse, of technology affected these lives.

A recent report indicates there are over 3,800 cell phones and BlackBerry devices assigned to

Florida Department of Transportation employees, and many workers carry personal cell phones. That could equate to a lot of opportunities to get distracted while driving.

Do you talk on a phone while driving? Do you dial the phone while driving? Do you text anyone while driving? Do you check your e-mails while driving? Do you adjust the GPS while driving? Do you use a computer while driving? Surely you don't, but you have most likely seen other people doing it. It only takes a moment of inattention to crash a vehicle and we all know these things take a little more than a moment.

The task of safe driving requires 100% of the driver's attention. No message, whether transmitted or received, is worth getting someone killed. Take a minute or two, pull over, and make good use of technology.



This monthly newsletter is produced by the State Safety Office under the supervision of Marianne A. Trussell, the Department's Chief Safety Officer.

For content information, please call the editor pro tem at: 850 245-1504

Our internet address is:
www.dot.state.fl.us/safety

Our intranet address is:
Infonet.dot.state.fl.us/safetyoffice/

**IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER.
BUCKLE UP, SIT UP, HANG
UP, AND DRIVE**



DOT TO RECEIVE TOP SAFETY PROGRAM AWARD FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Each year, the Department of Financial Services, Division of Risk Management, surveys all agencies regarding their safety and loss prevention programs and requires documentation of responses provided. The Safety Office provided information documenting the Department's safety procedure, training initiatives, new employee safety orientation, job specific safety training, building and laboratory inspections, safety committees, safety meetings, newsletters and other means of keeping employees aware and informed, claims investigations, and record keeping.

Agencies are scores based upon responses and documentation received. For the second year in a row, the Department will receive the 2008 Interagency Council on Loss Prevention Award for Excellence in Loss Prevention, the highest honor that can be received. There will be a presentation to agency winners on May 13 at the Department of Financial Services in Tallahassee.

Receipt of this award was made possible by all of the hard work and dedication by each of the district safety and health managers, safety committee members, safety advocates, and every DOT employee who cares about safety and is proactive in keeping themselves and those around them safe, both on and off the job.



The Department understands the importance of providing employees with opportunities to grow personally and professionally. It is critical that the type of training the Department, or any employer, provides meets the needs of the organization and its employees.

Some people and organizations may at times struggle with the age-old quandary, "there's too much work to do already and we'll just get further behind if we have to do training or try different processes!" However, Department safety managers and management know the vital importance of training and support training and safety initiatives to make employees safer in the variety of jobs we do.

Safety is important - both on and off the job and both on the road and off.

Your District Health and Safety Managers are:

- D1 - Larry Lyons
- D2 - Shaun Stewart
- D3 - Alaxon Pitts
- D4 - Dave Maloney
- D5 - Mark Wiseman
- D6 - Theo Buford
- D7 - Dave Hammell
- SMO - Ken Cox
- Tpke - Mike Anzalone

Noteworthy:

The position of Industrial Safety and Health Manager in the State Safety Office has been filled. Mark Eacker will be joining our team in that position on May 29. Mark has a wealth of experience he will be bringing to the job. He has worked for the New York Thruway Authority as a traffic and safety supervisor, he was a law enforcement officer in Sarasota, he worked for D6 as a senior safety specialist, and most recently he was a contract employee with the Florida Turnpike Enterprise. You will be able to reach Mark at 850-245-1510.

SAFETY BELT USE (cont'd)

Here is what happens to unsecured items in your vehicle. This could have been a child not properly restrained in a car seat, booster seat, or safety belt.



Think safety belts don't work? Think again. The pickup truck below was barely damaged when its driver went into the median and hit a mower and its driver and traveled onto the shoulder. The pickup driver was not wearing his safety belt and was thrown into the windshield. He was in a coma for months and remains seriously incapacitated.



On the other hand, the driver of the mower was wearing his safety belt. It is hard to believe from looking at these pictures, but the mower operator survived.



When paramedics arrived on the scene, the mower operator was still strapped into his safety belt and able to talk to them about his injuries. He was out of the hospital in weeks.



Safety Belts Save Lives!

LOOK TWICE – SAVE A LIFE

Did you know that the total hospital charges for the initial treatment of motorcyclists injured in traffic crashes in 2006 * was \$336,669,345? Another disturbing statistic is that in Florida motorcycle crashes and injuries have steadily increased for more than eight years. Most states have experienced similar increases.

Here are some additional disturbing facts:

- ◇ 38% of motorcyclist fatalities are related to traumatic brain injuries (Fla. 2005-2007)
- ◇ 93% of motorcyclists fatally injured in Florida were Florida residents (Fla. 2005-07)
- ◇ 44% of all motorcyclist hospitalizations and emergency room visits were not covered by commercial insurance (Fla. 2006)
- ◇ \$40,859 is the median hospital charge for motorcyclists admitted to a Florida hospital for the treatment of traffic crash injuries (Fla. 2007)

If you ride a motorcycle or are a passenger on a motorcycle, remember these tips:

- ◇ **Be visible** – wear reflective clothing; remember motorists' blind spots; ride in the part of the lane where you are most visible
- ◇ **Use personal protective gear** – wear a DOT approved helmet and eye protection, abrasion resistant clothing, long pants, long sleeved shirts, over the ankle boots, and full fingered gloves
- ◇ **Apply effective mental strategies** - give yourself distance and time to respond to other motorists' actions; watch for turning vehicles; signal your next move in advance; don't ride when tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- ◇ **Know your bike and how to use it** - get formal training and take refresher courses;

practice; develop good riding techniques before going into heavy traffic; know how to handle your bike in adverse conditions

In 2007, motorcycle registrations increased 8 percent. This was in part due to increased gas prices and the allure of motorcycles among baby boomers. And, there is no doubt that Florida's sunny weather, beautiful beaches, and scenic highways make it a popular place for motorcycle enthusiasts year round. Florida also hosts several popular motorcycle rallies such as Thunder Beach, Biketoberfest and Daytona Bike Week. Florida's growing population and popularity with motorcycle enthusiasts make motorcycle safety an increasingly important issue.

Whether you drive only a car, ride only a motorcycle, or do both, these tips are important to all of us. Motorists need to be extra vigilant and watch out for motorcycles. Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you are changing lanes or turning at intersections. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it can't always stop "on a dime."

For more information, contact Tenda McPherson in the DOT Safety Office at 850-245-1504 or go to the Safety Office website where you will also find some powerful public service announcements.

* the most recent year for which data is available



Word Search Puzzle

S F L B Y T E F A S P H W C V
T R B L A C K B E R R Y K C Y
S N O I T C E S R E T N I G P
C D C T M E T T G K D I O P R
I M I R A R L A E E H L F T E
T S D S K G D C D K O S N N V
A F P L T G I I Y N C G X E E
M O A E E R C T H C I I F M N
U Z B T E A A C S A R K T E T
A P S O T D E C P E K O N C I
R I K I A T I M T L V N T R O
T G O O V N A N C E V N W O N
B N V B M C Q Y G I D W I F M
S C I D E M A R A P E V N N Y
W W F S K C R I T I C A L E D

BLACKBERRY
CAMPAIGN
CRITICAL
DEDICATION
DISTRACTED
ENFORCEMENT
GADGETS
INTERSECTIONS
INVESTIGATORS

MOTORCYCLE
PARAMEDICS
PREVENTION
SAFETY
SPEEDING
TECHNOLOGY
TICKET
TRAUMATIC

The Safety Advisor puzzle is generated from the
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/>, puzzle maker.
Omissions or errors are possible. This is a free program and
we are not responsible for any errors or omissions.

Monthly themes are determined on an ad hoc basis.
Please feel free to submit safety slogans on any topic.

Safety Slogans

**When answering or placing a cell phone call while driving
Pull off the road and stop**

Jack Leonard, Assistant General Counsel
Florida Turnpike Enterprise

**Stay Cool . . . Don't Drive Like a Fool
Don't Drink and Drive . . . The life you save may be yours**

Gaye Schwall
Environmental Management Ofc.

Steer your wreck to the side . . . So others don't collide

Karl Koffman, Roadway Contract Manager
Florida Turnpike Enterprise

**Be careful every day during the month of MAY
Take care of your tools - as they are real jewels
Don't be a fool - follow the rules when it comes to using tools
Don't be a fool - work safely with your tools**

Catherine Gardyas, Brittany McMillan, Brandy Lancaster
District 1 Right of Way

Safety Hot Line



(850) 245-1543

You can now report hazards by telephone.

You can stay anonymous.

Everything is confidential.

Action will be taken and you will
be notified within 30 days.

Safety Advisor Customer Satisfaction Survey

We are interested in your opinion. In order to better serve your needs, please take a moment to fill out this brief questionnaire. Send to:

Local Fax: 850 245-1554

Via US Postal Service (or inter-office mail) to the address shown below.

**Attention: Industrial Safety
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 53
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450**

Survey Questions	Yes	No
Are the Safety Advisor topics relevant to your day to day job?		
Have you ever used the Safety Smart web site?		
What would you suggest to improve the suitability of the Safety Advisor to our needs or to improve the overall quality? (Please be specific)		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
Do you have any questions regarding Industrial Safety programs and/or operations? Please feel free to include your questions or comments.		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

Safety Slogan of the Month Entry Form

You are encouraged to submit safety slogans applicable to the month safety theme.

You may also email your slogans to Marianne.Trussell@dot.state.fl.us
In the subject line of your email please write **“Safety Slogan Entry”**.

Please Print	
Safety Slogan for the month of _____	
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
Name: _____	Location/Office: _____
District: _____	Phone: (____) _____

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Pay Day	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21	22 Pay Day	23
24	25 Memorial Day (observed)	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MAY IS

National Military Appreciation Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

Older Americans Month (est. by J.F. Kennedy in 1963)

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Florida Safety Belt Awareness Month

