



SAFETY ADVISOR

JUNE 2024 – WEEK 2

June is National Safety Month !

Week 2 Focus: Roadway Safety (June 9-15)

By Keith Myhre

Central Office, FDOT Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Did you get an opportunity to view last week's Safety Advisor? You'll recall that we are issuing **four**. One for each week of Safety Awareness Month. This week's focus is Roadway Safety. It's a broad category, to say the least. For some, the focus may be on other drivers and driver behaviors. Seatbelts, child car seats, pedestrians, or cyclists may come to mind. Working on the roadways. Driving behind a truck with gravel sliding out of the back. A new teenage driver in the family. Or, alcohol-impaired drivers may be of significance for those experiencing it firsthand. So, this week, we cover a variety of Roadway Safety-related topics. Do you have a particular thought about roadway safety? If so, consider sharing that with others. We should all have a vested interest in raising safety awareness with others, in your family or maybe your neighborhood. Our department has a variety of information sources if you are interested. By the way, how is your driving?

Week 1: Safety Engagement/CPR & AED

Week 2: Roadway Safety (June 9-15)

Week 3: Risk Reduction

Week 4: Slips, Trips and Falls



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- *Tie & Load Securing*
- *Come Together (For Parking Lot Safety)*
- *Roadway Safety for Motorcyclists*
- *Did You Know: Secure Your Loads*

Roadway Safety: Load Securing

It's the Law

All 50 states have laws regarding unsecured loads. Additionally, drivers are always responsible for safely operating their vehicles, including properly securing anything that could separate from your vehicle, creating dangerous obstacles on the road. Laws state that cargo should be tied down in such a way as to prevent anything from dropping, shifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping the vehicle. Violation of unsecured-load laws carry state-specific penalties with fines up to \$5,000.



SECURE YOUR LOAD DAY

visit our website

secureyourload.com

SECURE YOUR LOAD

JUNE 6

What is Secure Your Load?

Each year, **tens of thousands of drivers are injured** due to unsecured loads. Robin Abel's daughter was one of them. Today, most U.S. states recognize Secure Your Load Day as a time to bring awareness to this growing problem.

5 minutes of your time can save a life.

To learn more, visit our website. Thank you.



Come Together (For Parking Lot Safety)

By Erin McDade

Public Information Officer, State Safety Office

In a nod to The Beatles' iconic Abbey Road album cover, Secretary Jared Perdue and Assistant Secretaries Will Watts, Lisa Saliba, and Kim Holland recently had a bit of fun recreating this famous crossing. While it pays tribute to a legendary music moment, this playful reenactment also serves as a visual reminder of the importance of moving through our parking areas with awareness and care, ensuring everyone reaches their destination safely.

Navigating the hustle and bustle of office parking lots requires extra attention, especially during the morning and evening rush hours. These lots are busy multimodal hubs where it's easy to forget the rules of the road, get caught up in the day's to-do list, sneak in one last email on your phone, or dash off to the next errand.

With a mix of vehicles, from compact cars to four-wheel-drive trucks, sharing space, it's vital to keep things clear and moving smoothly to avoid any mishaps. Drivers, stay alert for pedestrians, especially when visibility is low or during peak rush hours. Pedestrians, stick to crosswalks and keep your phone in your pocket.

Remember, our parking lot is often the first and last part of the workplace we experience daily, setting the tone for our time at work. It reflects how much we value the safety and well-being of everyone on our premises. Let's come together to ensure our parking areas are safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.



Roadway Safety for Motorcyclists

The State of Florida, with its year-round warm weather and scenic roadways, is a top location and destination for motorcycle riding. In 2023, approximately 600 motorcyclists including passengers were fatally injured in traffic crashes in Florida. Those deaths account for about 17% of the total highway fatalities that year, despite motorcycle registrations representing only 3% of all vehicles in Florida.

As a motorcyclist, what steps can be taken to increase OUR safety on the roadways?

Motorcyclists keep themselves safer by following these simple tips:

- ◆ Do not drink and ride.
- ◆ Increase visibility to motorists: (wear bright colors, add extra lights to your motorcycle.)
- ◆ Wear All the Gear all the time (ATGATT) including DOT-compliant helmets.

Review at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet>

- ◆ Ride within the speed limit.
- ◆ Train regularly and get endorsed.
- ◆ Inspect your motorcycle before each ride to ensure your safety by having it in good working order.

Reducing the number of motorcycle-involved crashes goes beyond training and prevention on the part of motorcyclists. Other motorists should not drive distracted focusing solely on driving, having awareness and respect for all road users.

As a motorist, what steps can WE take to increase the safety for motorcyclists?

Motorists make the roads safer for motorcyclists with these simple tips:

- ◇ Always look for motorcycles. If you don't look for motorcycles, you can't see motorcycles.
- ◇ Check for motorcycles at intersections. As one approaches, let them pass before you turn.
- ◇ Check your mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic.
- ◇ Do not tailgate and allow greater following distance when behind a motorcycle.
- ◇ Do not drive distracted.
- ◇ Do not drink and drive.



Information provided courtesy of Edie Peters, FDOT Traffic Safety Specialist

Did You Know? More on Securing Loads

Did You Know? The FDOT Mobile Equipment Manual (400-000-001), Chapter 1 (Sect. 1.6.4.9) covers the details on how to succeed at load securement in our work areas.

I will be the first to admit I haven't always made loads secure. I'm sure I speak for many who have a pickup and occasionally carry a variety of your items or help friends move. Losing a canoe, among other possessions on a South Georgia highway, helped change that for me. I also felt I should be more accountable to drivers following me. Thankfully, no one has been behind me during those times. So, I can't complain about others whose "valuables" slide out the back with their tailgate down—I've been there. I encourage all who carry items outside their vehicle to visit [secureyourload.com](https://www.secureyourload.com). This website provides many links to useful methods for properly securing items in a vehicle. Tie-down methods must match the materials you are hauling. The use of bungee cords should be avoided altogether. Losing items from vehicles onto roadways is a widespread and serious problem. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's data from 2022 shows nearly 900 deaths and over 17,000 injuries caused by unsecured loads. When securing items in your vehicle, think about the safety of drivers following you.



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See Department safety information at: <https://www.fdot.gov/safety>
Anonymously report hazards in your workplace: (850) 414-5255

