

TALLAHASSEE, Florida [DHSMV] -- With the 2014 hurricane season quickly approaching, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles urges Floridians to add one additional step to their hurricane preparedness plans this year-make sure first responders know who to notify if you are in an emergency situation. The Department's Emergency Contact Information program allows you to securely register contact information online at <https://services.flhsmv.gov/eci/> and in driver license offices.

"In times of an emergency it is extremely important for first responders to be able to quickly locate a person's family or friends," said DHSMV Executive Director Terry Rhodes. "The Emergency Contact Information program allows you to register that information in a secure system that can be accessed only by law enforcement and provides peace of mind to your family and friends."

"Registering your emergency contact information is particularly important during hurricane season, but it's a helpful tool for law enforcement year-round," said Col. David Brierton, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "We deal with crashes everyday and having a person's emergency contact information helps law enforcement to quickly notify families and loved ones when someone is in an traffic crash."

More than 8.6 million Floridians have taken advantage of the ECI program, which allows Floridians with a current driver license or identification card to enter up to two contacts into the system's secure database. That information can only be accessed by law enforcement in times of emergency. Even if you have registered your information previously, be sure to update your contacts periodically, especially if you or your contacts have moved. It takes only a few minutes, and there is no fee to register.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow on Twitter @FLHSMV or find them on Facebook.