

Addendum
To the State of Florida
“ALACHUA COUNTY LOCAL OPEN ROADS POLICY”

An Inter-agency Agreement

Between

**The District 8 Medical Examiner for Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Dixie,
Gilchrist, Levy, and Union Counties, Florida**

And

The Florida Department of Transportation (District 2)

And

The Florida Highway Patrol (Troops B and G)

This agreement by and between the District 8 Medical Examiner, the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) establishes a policy for District 8 Medical Examiner, FHP (Troops B and G), and FDOT (District 2) personnel to expedite the removal of deceased persons from the scene of any type of traffic incident, thereby avoiding public spectacles and secondary crashes on the State Highway System and to expeditiously restore the safe and orderly flow of traffic following a motor vehicle crash or incident on Florida’s roadways.

Whereas: Public safety is the highest priority and must be maintained at all times. The quality of life in the State of Florida is heavily dependent upon the free movement of people, vehicles, and commerce. The District 8 Medical Examiner, FHP and FDOT share the responsibility for achieving and maintaining the degree of order necessary to make this free movement possible. Agencies have the responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to reduce the risk to responders, secondary crashes, and delays associated with incidents, crashes, roadway maintenance, construction, and enforcement activities.

The following operating standards are based on the philosophy that the State Highway System will not be closed or restricted any longer than is absolutely necessary.

Be it resolved: Roadways will be cleared of the deceased persons from the scene of any type of traffic incident, as soon as it is safe and authorization to do so has been granted.

Medical Examiner’s Office Responsibilities

Personnel of the District 8 Medical Examiner, who receive notice of a traffic fatality will make clearing the travel portion of the roadway a high priority. Upon notification from FHP, FDOT, or other appropriate entity, the District 8 Medical Examiner agrees to make all necessary arrangements for the immediate processing and transportation of deceased persons from the scene of a roadway incident. To expedite the removal of deceased persons off travel lanes, when response time to the scene would hinder the goals of the Open Roads Policy, the District 8 Medical Examiner agrees to accept detailed digital photos and/or Polaroid photos of the incident scene (i.e., overall, mid-range, and close-up photos of the victim) from FHP in lieu of those taken by District 8 Medical Examiner personnel.

Once FHP has completed taking photos of the deceased persons and incident scene, the District 8 Medical Examiner authorizes on scene personal permission to effect the movement of deceased persons from the travel lanes pursuant to Ch 406.12 Florida Statutes.

Florida Highway Patrol Responsibilities

Personnel of FHP who respond to the scene of traffic incidents involving deceased persons will make clearing the travel portion of the roadway a high priority. FHP shall make immediate telephonic notification, or ensure that such notification has been made, to the District 8 Medical Examiner to advise of a fatality at a traffic crash scene. When an investigation is required, it will be conducted in as expedient a manner as possible. Non-critical portions of the investigation may be delayed until lighter traffic conditions allow completion of those tasks. The FHP will only close those lanes absolutely necessary to conduct the investigation safely. FHP will coordinate with FDOT representatives to set up appropriate traffic control, establish alternate routes, expedite the safe movement of traffic trapped at the scene, and restore the roadway to normal as soon as possible.

To expedite the removal of deceased persons off travel lanes, FHP agrees to provide digital and/or Polaroid photos of the incident scene (i.e., overall, mid-range, and close-up photos of the victim) to the District 8 Medical Examiner as soon as possible. Once FHP has completed taking photos of the deceased persons and incident scene, FHP has the authority to begin the movement of deceased persons from the travel lanes. The movement of deceased persons may include ejected deceased persons or vehicles containing deceased persons off the travel lanes to the shoulder of the roadway, off ramps, accident investigation sites, or other safe areas for completion of investigations to reduce the delays and secondary crashes associated with motorists slowing to “gawk.”

Florida Department of Transportations Responsibilities

When requested by FHP or other emergency agency, FDOT or the Asset Management contractor will respond and deploy resources for temporary traffic controls to ensure a safe workzone for all responders and the motoring public during a traffic incident, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. FDOT shall, if necessary, assist in making additional notifications to the District 8 Medical Examiner. When authorized by FHP and/or the District 8 Medical Examiner, FDOT/Asset Management Contractor will assist in the clearance of the traffic incident to reopen the roadway.

Therefore, it is agreed as follows:

The District 8 Medical Examiner, FHP (Troops B and G), and the FDOT (District 2) will evaluate and continually update and modify their operating policies, procedures, rules, and standards to assure they are consistent with this agreement and the “**OPEN ROADS POLICY**”.

The District 8 Medical Examiner, FHP, along with FDOT, will research and evaluate and conduct training in the most advanced technologies, equipment, and approved methods for the documentation and investigation of crash or incident scenes. FHP, using these techniques, will prioritize the investigative tasks and reopen travel lanes upon completion of tasks that must be conducted, without the impediment of traffic flowing.

Roadways will be cleared as soon as possible. It is the goal of all agencies that **all incidents be cleared from the roadway within 90 minutes of the arrival of the first responding officer**. This goal being made with the understanding that more complex scenarios may require additional time for complete clearance.

It is further agreed that:

In witness whereof, each party hereto has caused this document to be executed in its name and on its behalf by it's duly authorized Chief Executive.

Actions of the FHP and FDOT pursuant hereto are taken pursuant to the specific direction and on behalf of the District 8 Medical Examiner under the authority of Rule 11G-2.001 of the Florida Administrative Code and Ch 406.12 Florida Statutes.

See attached signatures.

As agreed:

By: _____
Charles Baldwin, Jr.
Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
District 2
Date: _____

By: _____
Major Richard D. Carpenter
Troop Commander – Troop B
Florida Highway Patrol
Date: _____


Reviewed By:

Date: _____
Agency's General Counsel Office

Reviewed By:

Date: _____
Agency's General Counsel Office

By: _____
Major Grady Carrick
Troop Commander – Troop G
Florida Highway Patrol

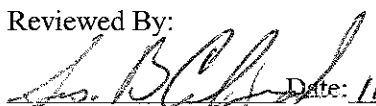
By: 
William F. Hamilton, M.D., Chief
District 8 Medical Examiner

Date: _____

Date: 20 Nov 2006

Reviewed By:

Date: _____
Agency's General Counsel Office

Reviewed By:

Date: 11-20-06
Agency's General Counsel Office