

# ‘MAKE SAFETY A HABIT’

DEP's Safety Series  
Volume 3, Issue 2



## Recreation and Parks Keeping Employees Safe

The Division of Recreation and Parks recently purchased safety apparel to help protect their employees who work on federal highways. A new federal law went into effect November 24, 2008 that requires all workers on federal highways to wear high visibility safety apparel. This include employees of Florida State Parks that maintain the road shoulders picking up debris, mowing, or patching asphalt.

A “federal-aid highway” is defined as any road that has used federal funds in its construction and/or maintenance. According the U.S. Department of Transportation, state and county roads are usually federally funded while local and rural roads usually are not. The Florida Department of Transportation has maps available that indicate which highways are federal-aid highways.

In order for garments to qualify as high visibility safety apparel the safety vests must meet a standard known as “ANSI 107-2004 Class II.” The new vests have colors and reflecting tapes that can be seen in low light as well as daytime conditions, thus



providing a higher level of safety for the our employees. The vests will also be worn during park special events if an employee is stationed on a road shoulder or in the roadway directing traffic.



## Northeast District Safety News

Janice Price was named the December recipient of the Deputy NED award for sharing her story at the All Staff meeting of a near-miss she had at a recent potable water treatment plant inspection. As you may have noticed, Deputy NED is gaining accessories. The award winners have been invited to add a ‘personal touch’ to the award, which is then passed on with the award to the next recipient. Janice added a pirate’s eye patch.



Matt Kershner was named the January recipient of the Deputy NED award for his diligence in making safety the top priority in the Submerged Lands and Environmental Resource Permitting section. Matt hasn't yet added his contribution to Deputy NED's ever changing look, but next month we'll be sure to let you know what it was.

## The Northwest District Takes on a Huge Project for Employees' Safety

The Northwest District Office tackled an enormous project in the name of “employees’ safety”. The NW District has an offsite warehouse used to store a number of items, including records, a boat, associated equipment for Ecosystem Restoration and “a whole lot of other stuff.”

The warehouse was getting very crowded and as can be seen by the pictures below; it had become somewhat of a safety hazard (slip/trip/ fall potential, injury by strain potential, struck by potential, and striking against/stepping on potential). The District employees worked together to build additional shelving, cleaned up and straightened up the warehouse for a more safety friendly environment. Now that is really making “Safety a Habit”.

*Before*



*After*

