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THE PITTMAN PRESS

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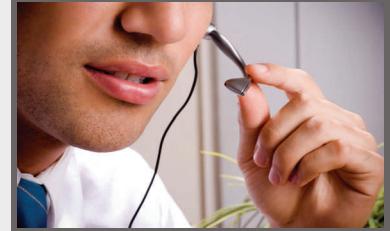
WHAT IS A SAFE SPEED LIMIT?

Speed limits vary greatly throughout the state of Florida. In fact the Federal legislation gives individual states the authority to establish their own maximum speed limits. You may travel on a road and wonder why the speed limit on that particular roadway is lower or higher than what you think is reasonable. How was that speed determined?

The primary purpose of speed limits is to “*improve safety by reducing the probability and severity of crashes*” according to the [Florida Department of Transportation](http://www.flhwy.com) website. It is believed that 85% of drivers travel at reasonably safe speeds for the road and weather conditions they encounter leaving 15% of drivers who must be reminded of the maximum speed limit. Some drivers may find the maximum speed limit to be too fast for them and drive slower. Be sure to observe any posted minimum speed and practice ‘Lane Courtesy’ by staying in the right lane on divided highways to avoid causing a disruption in the traffic flow.

Many factors are considered in determining a speed limit. State highways will differ from municipal and county speed zones for obvious reasons. The amount of traffic, number of lanes and proximity to urban areas dictate maximum speed limits within the state of Florida. Speed limits within many counties could

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Upcoming Events

- January 1st—HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Classes are back in session after winter break—STAY ALERT! Watch for students at bus stops and on bicycles as well as the additional traffic. Observe school zone speed limits.
- January 18th—Observe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.' birthday.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PITTMAN FIRM

Another year has gone by. I hope 2009 was good to you and the outlook for 2010 is promising. There are many things we have no control of in life but the one thing you can do for yourself is to take care of “you”. It may be finding a way to fit 30 minutes of activity in your day or to get 6-8 hours of restful sleep a day. These basic things will do wonders in keeping your health on the right track. Some people make new year’s resolutions but these things need to be a regular part of your life, not just temporary goals. Rest helps keep you more alert and will help you react quickly to emergencies such as a near-miss car accident. For more tips, go to www.about.com and search stress management or click [here](#).



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Helping to keep your family informed!



“There are two things to aim at in life; first to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind has achieved the second.”

-Logan Pearsall Smith

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vary greatly based on whether it is a business or residential district as well as any historical data which may document a particular roadway as a hazard.



Florida statute 316.189 (State Uniform Traffic Control) gives the decision making power to the municipalities to maintain safe roadways by dictating speed limits on the county maintained roadways in their jurisdiction — as long as they do not exceed 60 miles per hour. Speed limits signs must also be posted and legibly printed to be seen in both day and at night when illuminated by headlights.

Speed limits in school zones also take factors in mind such as it's location in urbanized areas and time of day. Road maintenance, required signage or other notifying device is the responsibility of the municipality on all county maintained roadways.

If you believe a roadway needs to be reviewed due to hazardous conditions, you can contact the District Traffic Operations Engineer at the Florida Dept. of Transportation (DOT) office. To read more on how speed limits are determined, access the DOT website and search for Speed Limits or click [here](#).

NEW LAWS OR OTHER CHANGES IN 2010

Did you know?...

- [Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009](#). This law will limit when the interest rates can be increased on credit cards. Most provisions take effect February 22, 2010 with other provisions phased in over the next 15 months.
- According to www.irs.gov, the standard business mileage reimbursement rate will decrease from .55 to .50 per mile effective January 1, 2010. Other rates apply if your mileage is driven in service of charitable organizations or driven for medical or moving purposes.
- The federal estate Tax has been repealed for estates of individuals who die in 2010. It is, however, expected to be reinstated in 2011. [Other tax changes](#) include topics such as Roth IRA conversions, Tuition and Fees Deduction, Partial Exclusion for Unemployment Benefits and more.
- [Attention Business owners](#): Unemployment in Florida increased to 11% in September causing the [Unemployment \(SUTA\) rate](#) charged to Florida business' to increase effective January 1, 2010. If your business also had a claim in the last 3 years, the increase will be larger.

In addition to these changes in the law, here are a few reminders to start out the new year.

Reminders...

- Test your smoke alarms and replace the batteries. This will ensure they will function properly in the event of a home fire or smoke hazard.
- If you have fire extinguishers, check the gauge to ensure it still reads 'FULL'. If you've had it for several years, you may want to consider a replacement.
- Review all prescription and over the counter medications for expiration dates. Although [The Harvard Medical School Family Health Guide](#) has reported *most* medicines were good for years after the expiration dates, it's best to use your own judgment particularly in the case of antibiotics where 100% effectiveness is essential.