

## Why Reverse Lanes?



The principal benefit of a reverse lanes evacuation is the ability to use the maximum number of highway lanes possible for evacuating people from a threatened area. It's a way to handle the additional traffic anticipated as Florida residents and visitors leave a coastal area in advance of a hurricane.

Reverse lanes evacuation plans are established for certain expressways and interstates in Florida. When the decision is made to activate a reverse lanes evacuation, sections of these highways are set up to route traffic in one direction, heading away from the approaching storm.

## What to Expect

The ultimate decision on a reverse lanes evacuation rests with the Governor. If local and state officials determine



that a reverse lanes evacuation is necessary, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) will begin preparing the route. The lanes to be reversed will be closed to incoming traffic and no vehicles will be permitted on the usual entry ramps. Motorists who normally travel these lanes will be diverted to alternate routes.

The FHP will conduct the reverse lanes evacuation. Be sure to obey all temporary traffic markers and follow the direction of the law enforcement officers along the route. A reverse lanes evacuation is designed to begin at a certain point, typically at a paved crossover in the highway median. It concludes at a predetermined location where the traffic on the reversed lanes is merged on to another highway. There you will be able to seek temporary shelter locally or continue traveling to another destination.

## Getting Information

For traffic information in Florida, dial 511 or visit the Web site [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com). Traffic conditions and information on roads closed due to crashes can also be obtained from the FHP's Traffic Incident Web site, [www.fhp.state.fl.us/traffic](http://www.fhp.state.fl.us/traffic).

During reverse lanes evacuation, the FDOT will provide traffic and evacuation information on the 511 traveler information system.



Another information source is highway advisory radio. Watch for the roadside signs that direct you to tune your radio to the designated frequency to hear the alert. For those with Citizens Band (CB) radios, tune to Channel 19 for information.

Portable and fixed message signs will display traffic information and instructions along the reverse lanes evacuation route.

Emergency Alert System radio stations broadcast advisories you can receive along many of Florida's highways. Tune to these stations for weather alerts.

## Important Tips

Because of the way they are structured, reverse lanes evacuation routes restrict your travel choices. You will find that many interchanges and exits will be closed, and that traffic will be directed to predetermined points - with no exceptions. This will limit the options you have to travel as you may have intended.



Remember that a reverse lanes evacuation plan may not reduce the travel time to your destination, or the amount of traffic congestion you encounter along the way - especially if you delay your departure. In fact, traffic may be flowing much more smoothly on roads other than interstates. For more flexibility in your evacuation planning, leave earlier and select an alternate route to your destination.

## Other Things to Keep in Mind

- Before leaving, fill your vehicle with fuel.
- Use service plazas and rest areas for brief stops. Food and fuel supplies may be limited, and law enforcement personnel will ensure that traffic keeps moving.
- State law requires that travel lanes be kept clear. If your vehicle becomes disabled and you are stranded, the Road Ranger Service Patrols are instructed to push your car to the unpaved shoulder of the road. Road Rangers will assist in arranging transportation to the next interchange.
- If you are involved in a crash, remove all vehicles from the travel lanes as quickly as possible. If you are unable to move your vehicle, seek help from other motorists. Because law enforcement services will be generally limited to emergencies, drivers are urged to exchange the following information: driver's name, address, and vehicle registration number, along with the insurance carrier's name.
- For *incidents involving injuries* that require immediate medical attention, please wait for emergency responders away from traffic.



## Contact Information

Florida Highway Patrol..... Dial \*FHP  
Florida DOT.....1-866-374-3368  
Florida Emergency Information.....1-800-342-3557  
American Red Cross.....1-866-438-4636



## On the Web

For more information on reverse lanes evacuation plans and their use on Florida highways, visit [www.OneWayFlorida.org](http://www.OneWayFlorida.org).



## Motorist Advisory

# REVERSE LANES EVACUATION

## Plan for One-Way Evacuation of State Road 528

A Publication of



Florida Highway Patrol



Florida Department of Transportation



Florida Division of Emergency Management

# Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan for SR 528

The reverse lanes evacuation plan for SR 528, the Beachline Expressway, is available for coastal residents intending to evacuate west. It begins at 528's interchange with SR 520 at Exit 31 and continues west 17 miles to the interchange at SR 417, Exit 16, in neighboring Orange County.

If this reverse lanes evacuation plan is activated, all eastbound SR 528 traffic in Orlando will be forced to exit at SR 417, and can only proceed south on 417. This will allow the reversal of the eastbound lanes so that all traffic will flow west along the SR 528 reverse lanes evacuation route.

# Entering the Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan

The SR 528 reverse lanes evacuation plan entrance is at SR 520. If your travel plans call for proceeding to North Orlando, you will be directed to remain in the two right-hand westbound lanes of SR 528.

If your destination is South Orlando, you will be directed to use a single-lane median crossover just past the SR 520 interchange. This allows one westbound lane of 528 traffic to shift to the reverse lanes side of the highway.

Westbound traffic on SR 520 is directed to the 528 eastbound exit ramp, which supplies the second reverse lanes west of the interchange. Eastbound 520 traffic may either take SR 528 west or proceed to the eastbound 528 on-ramp.

# Exiting the Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan

At the SR 528 Toll Plaza near the end of the reverse lanes evacuation plan, the extra pavement width allows the shifting of the four westbound lanes to the right-hand side of the roadway. Reduce your speed and follow the coned traffic pattern.

At SR 417, the two lanes on the right are directed to the SR 417 on-ramp and that traffic proceeds north to North Orlando. The existing ramp shoulder is used as the second lane for that exit.

The two left lanes stay on SR 528 and proceed through the SR 417 interchange to South Orlando. There, motorists have access to Florida's Turnpike, Interstate 4 and U.S. 441.







# On the Radio

Tune to WMFE, 90.7 FM, for hurricane advisories and other important information from the Florida Public Radio Network.

# Local Agency Phone Numbers

- American Red Cross of Central Florida.....407-894-4141
- FDOT District 5 .....1-800-780-7102
- Orange County Emergency Management.....407-836-9140
- City of Orlando Emergency Operations Center .....321-235-5437
- Brevard County Emergency Operations Center .....321-637-6670

### REVERSE LANES LEGEND

 Highway Advisory Radio <b>HAR</b>	 CB Wizard Alert
 Exit Number <b>24</b>	 Lodging  Fuel  Food

# Facilities Along the Route

Due to the short distance of this reverse lanes evacuation plan and the lack of facilities between SR 520 and SR 417, no westbound evacuating traffic on SR 528 can exit at either Dallas Boulevard, Exit 24, or at International Corporate Park Boulevard, Exit 20. There are no facilities (food, fuel, rest areas) at either of these exits.

# Alternate Route

Motorists seeking an alternate east-west route between Brevard County and Orlando may use SR 50.

