



## ***Williston Police Department***

*5 S.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue-Williston, Florida 32696-0160  
(352) 528-4991*

On 10/28/09 I was traveling northbound on I-75 returning from the Tampa area. I was around the 345 mile marker when I observed a blue in color Dodge SUV traveling southbound. The SUV veered into the guardrails then over turned. As the vehicle overturned I noticed an object flying in the air and landing in the center of I-75. I stopped to assist and found out that the object that landed in the center of I-75 was the young female driver of the SUV. I immediately ran to her and attempted to give first aid. The female had no pulses and was unresponsive. I was able to get traffic flowing awaiting medical and FHP. During the investigation I spoke with one of the troopers on scene and found out that the female did not have a seat belt on.

The driver's side of that vehicle had little to no damage where the passenger's side was completely torn apart. The trooper looked at the damage and said if the driver had her seatbelt on she probably would have only received minor injuries. The young female was only 19 years old, such a tragedy for the young female's family to have to deal with especially knowing her life could have been spared if she only had her seat belt on.

I myself am a survivor of a serious traffic crash. I was hit by an eighteen wheeler while on duty in my marked patrol vehicle conducting a traffic stop on Interstate I-95 in 2001. The tractor trailer was traveling at a speed of 76 miles an hour when the driver fell asleep and drifted into the emergency lane where I was parked. I was about to unhook my seatbelt when the truck collided into the rear of my patrol vehicle. The impact was so severe that I was shoved over 1,000 feet northward with the truck half way into my patrol vehicle. I sustained serious injuries from that crash. Investigators that worked my crash said, that from the damage sustained to my vehicle I could have been ejected and possibly ran over.

Life is precious and from time to time we all take things for granite and tell ourselves, that won't happen to me, well it can and it does. Please look at the big picture, don't be a statistic.

Detective: James Bond

*"Striving For Excellence"*