



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** May 30, 2025

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### **FCSO Increases Summer Safety Initiatives to Protect Residents and Visitors**

BUNNELL, Fla. — As summer approaches and beach activity increases, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office encourages residents to help keep local roadways and waterways safe and homes secure by adhering to traffic and boating safety laws, practice personal crime prevention and taking part in proactive programs.

This summer, the FCSO will participate in "Operation Southern Slow Down," a week-long speed enforcement and education campaign spanning across five states. The campaign will run from July 14-July 19 and is designed to provide traffic enforcement and education to decrease speeding and aggressive driving and reduce the risk of serious injuries and fatalities.

FCSO is also preparing for an increase in activity at area beaches and access parking areas and with it, a potential for increased criminal activity. To stop potential criminals from preying on Flagler County residents and visitors, the FCSO Beach Patrol Unit, Bike Unit, Citizen Observer Patrol Bike Unit, and patrol units will have increased visibility and patrols in high-traffic areas including beaches, beach approaches, parks, and retail shopping centers. You can assist by locking your car and hiding any valuables from sight.

Along with this increased presence, Sheriff Rick Staly encourages everyone to take advantage of the C.O.P Vacation Watch Program. Through this community safety program, each household can receive up to 20 vacation house watch checks per year. During these checks, uniformed volunteer FCSO Citizen

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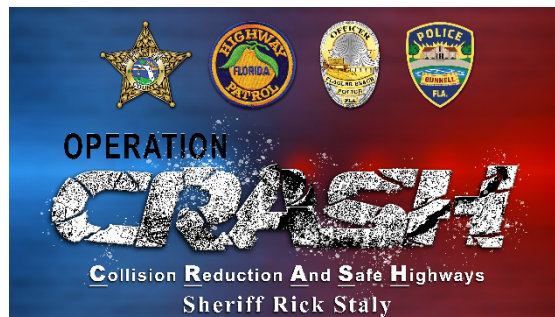
Observer Patrol members survey the outside of the home to make sure it is secure. If anything looks suspicious, the C.O.P then notifies the homeowner. To register for Vacation Watch, visit <http://flaglersheriff.com> and click C.O.P Vacation Watch Request. The request must be submitted five days prior to the start of your travel.

The STAR Program is also available to residents who want a free home security assessment. The program enables residents to schedule an appointment for a comprehensive home security inspection. Homeowners can then choose to make recommended security upgrades. After the enhancements have been made, the resident will receive a Secure Home STAR of Approval upon final inspection. To register for the STAR Program, call the District 2 Office (386)586-2621 or request in-person at FCSO's Palm Coast District 2 Office, located at 14 Palm Harbor Village Way.

"While the Vacation Watch Program and STAR Program cannot guarantee the security of your home or prevent damage caused by criminals or inclement weather while you are away, they can act as proactive measures to reduce your risk of becoming a victim and discover any issues before you return home," said Sheriff Rick Staly.

"There are many simple things you can do to keep yourself and your family safe when you're out enjoying yourself this summer. Before you leave town, remember to lock your doors and secure your valuables. When you're on the beach, be aware of your surroundings, be alert, and don't leave your valuables unattended. And, don't drive distracted or impaired. And, finally, if you 'See Something, say something.' Together, everyone can have a safe and fun summer," Sheriff Staly added.

Report all suspicious activity by calling 386-313-4911. If you witness a crime in-progress, call 9-1-1.



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