



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

Greg Thomas, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, State Farm® team up to provide state's free roadside service**

*State Farm sponsorship supports vital KYTC SAFE Patrol program that has provided nearly 350,000 assists and improves highway safety*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 18, 2018)** – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Secretary Greg Thomas today announced State Farm as the new sponsor of the state's highly regarded SAFE Patrol free roadway assistance service – marking the first time a public and private entity have teamed up for the program. The service delivers on KYTC and State Farm's focus on improving highway safety in Kentucky and has come to the aid of stranded motorists and law enforcement to provide nearly 350,000 assists on major highways throughout the state in the last decade.

"We're teaming up with State Farm through this innovative partnership to support one of our premier safety programs that provides critical assistance and assurance when motorists encounter trouble on the road," said KYTC Secretary Thomas. "Our mutual desire is to improve safety by offering tangible help to stranded motorists while keeping traffic moving and roadways clear when incidents occur on bustling interstates and parkways."

The SAFE Patrol Sponsored by State Farm helps to reduce congestion and enhance safety on Kentucky's highways by proactively patrolling the eight most heavily traveled interstates and all parkways, responding to crashes/incidents, changing a flat tire, jump-starting a car, providing a small amount of gasoline, making minor safety repairs and administering first aid. The patrol will also provide traffic control for scene stabilization, and communicate with law enforcement agencies regarding incidents. The SAFE Patrol Sponsored by State Farm is expected to attend to nearly 40,000 incidents in 2019.

"Our support of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet SAFE Patrol program embodies our 'good neighbor' philosophy," said Ed Gold, State Farm advertising director. "It also underscores the continued commitment State Farm has to auto safety, while helping people recover from the unexpected, which is the heart of the State Farm mission."

Kentucky's Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies "SAFE" patrol was first established in 2004 in an effort to enhance incident management, assist motorists, aid law enforcement and keep traffic moving safely.

Service patrols are prevalent nationwide and the Federal Highway Administration considers them to be one of the most effective Traffic Incident Management components. In addition to being so highly regarded at the federal level, state government, transportation department officials, program managers and patrol drivers are proud of the service they provide, and the public who benefits from the services widely regard the patrols as heroes of the highway.

“The dedicated men and women of the SAFE Patrol have helped provide quality service to citizens and visitors traveling Kentucky roadways over the past 14 years,” said Acting Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety Jason Siwula. “This sponsorship allows us to enhance this service by improving the visibility of patrol vehicles on highways with new markings, reducing traffic congestion when crashes occur and offering greater peace of mind for drivers who run into unexpected problems on the road.”

State Farm support helps to offset the costs used for operation of the program. The SAFE Patrol Sponsored by State Farm program is a free service offered to all drivers traveling on all eight major interstates and a dozen parkways and highways throughout the entire state. Patrol operations are seven days per week from 6 am until 10 pm. The complete list of covered roadways includes: I-24, I-64, I-65, I-69, I-71, I-75, I-264, I-265, Louie B. Nunn, Wendell H. Ford, Western KY, Audubon, Edward T. Breathitt, William H. Natcher, Bert T. Combs Mountain, Hal Rogers, Martha L. Collins Bluegrass, Julian Carroll Purchase, US-23, KY-80. Drivers in need of assistance may call 888-FOR-KYTC or dial #SAFE to request aid.

State Farm proudly sponsors similar Safety Service Patrol programs in 18 other states: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Kentucky motorists can learn more about the SAFE Patrol Sponsored by State Farm program [online](#). Motorists who are assisted by the patrol can also share their stories on social media using the hashtag #AssistPatrol.

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Editor’s Note: B-roll footage and photos of SAFE Patrol Sponsored by State Farm vehicles and operators can be found in the Media Materials section at the bottom of [this page](#).