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Fuel Conservation Important for Cities, Citizens

Margate, FL, September 1, 2005 – At a conference call with Broward County Emergency Management this morning, officials from the City of Margate learned more about the fuel situation in Florida and the rest of the country in the wake of Katrina.

Margate Fire Chief Frank Porcella explained the situation. Normally 67% of the fuel we get in Florida is from the Gulf and 30% is from the Caribbean and Europe. The fuel that is being offloaded now at Port Everglades is from Texas and St. Croix. At this point there is not a flow of gas from the Gulf to New York and the New England area. There is no diversion away from giving Florida that fuel at this time, but we don't know what is ahead, and it is a good idea to be conservative.

State and county officials do not feel that we are in a gas crisis at this point. And as of today Florida's governor will not be issuing any type of a state of emergency.

Margate city officials felt that it's important at these early stages to be creative in how to save fuel and asked for employees to submit any suggestions as to how to conserve. Ideas such as car pooling certain work crews and adjusting the work week were suggested.

City Manager Len Golub requested that all the citizens of Margate should be practicing conservation when it comes to fuel. "[The city] is only a small part of the effort to conserve. The citizens play an important role too."

The following are some tips from Fuel Economy (www.fueleconomy.gov) on how to get the most from your gas mileage.

1. **Drive Sensibly** – avoid speeding, as rapid acceleration and braking wastes gas.
2. **Observe the Speed Limit** – gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph.
3. **Remove Excess Weight** – avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your MPG by up to 2%.
4. **Avoid Excessive Idling** – Idling gets 0 miles per gallon. Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than do cars with smaller engines.
5. **Use Cruise Control** – on the highway it helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.
6. **Use Overdrive Gears** – when you use overdrive gearing your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas.

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