



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

For Immediate Release:
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Georgia DOT Warning...

SCAM ARTISTS PREYING ON JOB-SEEKERS & MOTORISTS

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation warns the public that two separate scam artists are stealing money from individuals – in one case offering non-existent jobs with the Department; in the other, posing as DOT Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs) and charging for assistance.

The Department has received two complaints from citizens in the past week:

- The first involved a motorist whose vehicle had a flat tire the night of June 1 on I-75 near Moore's Mill Road. The driver said an individual clad in a gray safety vest and driving what he recalled being a white Dodge pick-up truck stopped; identified himself as a DOT employee; took the wheel rim, \$100 and left, promising to get a new tire mounted. He never returned.
- In the employment scam, a man is reportedly identifying himself as a "federal job recruiter" and approaching individuals at various job seekers' functions throughout the Metro area. He apparently offers employment with Georgia DOT as a "freight inspector" or mobile truck "weigh station" operator in exchange for \$75 application and \$12 background-check fees which he instructs the individuals to wire to what prove to be fraudulent entities.

Appropriate law enforcement agencies have been notified.

Georgia DOT reminds motorists that while its HERO operators may stop to assist disabled vehicles when not responding to emergencies, HEROs drive easily identifiable Department trucks; wear Department uniforms; have DOT identification; do not charge for assistance; and will not solicit or accept tips or rewards.

Also, as a general rule, the Department does not utilize employment recruiters; nor does it ever charge job applicants any fees whatsoever. (Finally, as a point of fact, Georgia DOT is not the entity responsible for freight inspection or weighing trucks.)

Anyone approached by these individuals or having information regarding these activities is asked to please contact local law enforcement or the Department's Investigations Unit at (404) 347-0620.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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