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New Texas Department of Motor Vehicles database helps law enforcement nationwide to track temporary permits

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) rolled out a new database this week that allows law enforcement nationwide to verify temporary permits issued by the Lone Star State.

Information on Texas' temporary permits is accessible through the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS). The database includes: Factory Delivery, One-Trip, 30-Day, 144-Hour, and 72-Hour permits.

"The TxDMV is actively working on programs that aid national, state and local law enforcement," said Randy Elliston, director of the TxDMV's Vehicle Titles and Registration Division. "This new database helps to prevent vehicle permit fraud, and makes it possible to track Texas permitted vehicles."

Advantages to the new database include:

- 24/7 access of near real-time Texas permitted vehicle information for law enforcement nationwide.
- Ability to query database by permit number, vehicle identification number, business name or vehicle owner's last name.
- On the spot verification of permit validity, name of permit holder, and vehicle information.

More than 400,000 temporary permits are issued each year in Texas.

The new database joins Dealer e-Tags, the automated tracking database for temporary permits issued by new and used vehicle dealers in Texas.

Permits tracked in the TxDMV's databases are printed on standard, letter-sized paper. These temporary permits must be displayed in the following manner:

- One-Trip and 30-Day Permits: Visible through the rear window. When there is no rear window, the permit must be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

- 144- and 72-Hour Permits: Must be carried in the vehicle until the day following the permit expiration. Some users may choose to display the permit on their vehicle.
- Dealer e-Tags (buyer's permit): Must be displayed on the vehicle where the license plate would be found. The permit must be encased in a plastic sleeve.

It is possible that law enforcement may encounter valid Texas cardboard temporary permits in the next few months as some companies exhaust existing stock of these old permits. These will not show up in the TxDMV's new database.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is charged with overseeing the state's motor vehicle services that provide consumer protection, assist motor vehicle-related businesses and raise revenue for the state. For every \$1 it spends, the TxDMV returns \$10 to build and maintain highways, roads and bridges and provide needed services to Texans. Each year the agency registers more than 21 million vehicles; regulates more than 23,000 vehicle dealers; credentials buses and big trucks for intrastate and interstate commerce; and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts. Learn more at www.TxDMV.gov.

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