## move over. it’s the law.

## TALKING POINTS

Join the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s safety initiative to educate the public about importance moving over for first responders.

* *Move Over. It’s the Law.* In fact, it’s not just the law — it’s the right thing to do.
* It is dangerous — even deadly — to drive next to a law enforcement officer stopped on the side of a highway. Making a traffic stop, investigating a crash, or assisting a motorist are some of the most dangerous things law enforcement officers do.
* The “Move Over” laws do not only apply to law enforcement — these laws also help protect other first responders, tow truck drivers, and drivers of any emergency vehicle with flashing lights activated. Some state laws also protect utility workers and other roadside workers.
* The first “Move Over” law originated in South Carolina in 1996. Since then, every state has enacted such laws, with Hawaii becoming the 50th and final state to enact “Move Over” legislation in 2012.
* “Move Over” laws vary from state to state, and it is a driver’s responsibility to know their state’s specific requirements. However, the bottom line remains the same: When a vehicle with flashing lights is stopped on or next to a roadway, drivers approaching the vehicle should (1) make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the vehicle; or (2) if unable to safely make a lane change, slow down to a reasonable speed for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.
* Fines for violations of the “Move Over” law vary from state to state. In some states, violation of the law is punishable by jail time.
* Unfortunately, not everyone is familiar with “Move Over” laws, which is why NHTSA works to educate drivers.

**Stats**

More information can be found at <https://exchange.aaa.com/automotive/roadside-assistance/slow-down-move-over/>.