# Move Over. It’s the Law.

Join the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s safety initiative to educate the public about the importance of moving over for emergency vehicles — and other vehicles stopped along a road.

## Talking Points

### Overview

* Moving over isn’t just the right thing to do when you see flashing lights along the side of a road — it’s the law.
* All 50 states and Washington, DC, have laws requiring drivers to move over and slow down for emergency vehicles with flashing lights.
* Law enforcement vehicles are routinely stopped along roads. Making a traffic stop, investigating a crash, or assisting a driver are some of the most dangerous things law enforcement officers do.
* It is dangerous — and can be deadly — to drive next to vehicles stopped on the side of a highway.
* Some states have expanded their Move Over law to include moving over for all vehicles with flashing lights on the side of the road. This includes law enforcement, EMS, fire, highway maintenance, construction, utility, trash, and disabled vehicles.
* Move Over laws vary from state to state, and it is a driver’s responsibility to know their state’s specific requirements on when to move over for flashing lights.
* In general, no matter the state, how you move over remains the same:
	+ You should make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the vehicle.
	+ If you are unable to safely change lanes, you should slow down to a reasonable speed that accounts for current weather, road, 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.
* The first Move Over law originated in South Carolina in 1996.

### Stats

For more information, visit [NHTSA.gov/MoveOver](https://www.nhtsa.gov/move-over-its-law)