FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]

CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number, Email Address]

**NHTSA Urges Drivers to**

**Slow Down and Move Over When Lights Are Flashing**

**[City, State]**  — The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration urges drivers to move over when they see flashing lights on the side of the road. Every driver needs to remember this simple message: *Move Over. It’s the Law*.

In 2023, there were 28,000 traffic-related crashes along the shoulder, and 585 of these crashes were deadly. For law enforcement, one of the most dangerous places for officers to be is on the side of the road. Tragically, 237 law enforcement officers were killed in traffic-related crashes between 2020 and 2024, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Of the 44 killed in 2024 alone, 17 law enforcement officers were struck outside their vehicles — a 113% increase from 2023.

If a driver spots a vehicle with flashing lights on the side of the road, he or she should make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the stopped vehicle. If the driver is unable to safely change lanes, he or she should slow down to a reasonable speed that accounts for existing weather, road, vehicular, or pedestrian traffic conditions.

Every state and Washington, DC, has a Move Over law requiring drivers to move away and slow down for emergency vehicles with flashing lights. Some states have expanded their Move Over law to include other types of vehicles stopped on the side of the road that have flashing lights, such as tow trucks, utility and construction vehicles, trash trucks, and disabled vehicles.

Laws vary from state to state, so it is a driver’s responsibility to know their state’s specific requirements for the Move Over law. In general, no matter the state, the message is the same: If a driver sees flashing lights on the side of the road, they should *Move Over*.

“Slowing down and moving over is a simple way you can help protect law enforcement, first responders, and others working along the side of a road,” said **[Local Law Enforcement Official]**. “Drivers who zoom by and ignore the flashing lights — and the Move Over law —increase the risk for those of us doing our job. Unfortunately, many drivers perceive moving over as an optional courtesy when they see flashing lights on the side of the road,” **[he/she]** said. “It’s not optional: *Move Over. It’s the Law.*”

Drivers need to remember the next time they see flashing lights on the side of the road: *Move Over. It’s the Law.*

For more information about *Move Over. It’s the Law*, visit [NHTSA.gov/MoveOver](https://www.nhtsa.gov/MoveOver).

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