

# Move Over. It's the Law.

## Did You Know?

- There are Move Over laws in all 50 states and Washington, DC.
- Not moving over for flashing lights is dangerous for everyone.
- For law enforcement, stopping on the side of the road is one of the most dangerous things an officer can do in the line of duty.

## What's the Move Over Law?

Move Over laws vary from state to state, but all states and Washington, DC, have laws requiring drivers to move over and slow down for emergency vehicles with flashing lights.

Move Over laws in 19 states and DC (as of June 2025) include moving over for all vehicles with flashing or hazard lights, including: law enforcement, EMS, fire, highway maintenance, construction, utility, trash, and disabled vehicles.

## How to Move Over

In general, no matter the state, how you move over is the same.

- You should make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the vehicle.
- If unable to safely make a lane change, slow down to a reasonable speed for current weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

## Why Is There a Move Over Law?

The first Move Over law was passed in 1996 in South Carolina after a paramedic was tragically struck while responding to a crash. Move Over laws are in effect to save the lives of law enforcement officers, emergency responders and anyone on the side of the road.

## What Is the Penalty for Violating the Move Over Law?

While the penalty for violating a Move Over law varies from state to state to include costly fines and in some cases jail time, no matter what state you're in, obeying the Move Over law could save someone's life.

## More on Move Over

Please keep our law enforcement officers, emergency responders, and everyone on the side of the road safe. For more information, visit [NHTSA.gov/MoveOver](https://NHTSA.gov/MoveOver) and for resources to promote Move Over visit [TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov/MoveOver](https://TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov/MoveOver).

