

National Move Over Day

Oct 16, 2021

National Move Over Day, the third Saturday of every October, is an event when first responders, roadway workers, and communities across the United States promote awareness of Move Over laws.

The Move Over Law is a traffic law currently mandatory in all 50 states. It requires all vehicles approaching an emergency scene, marked by flashing lights, emergency responders and rescue equipment, to slow down and as soon as safe to do so, move into a lane away from the emergency activity.

“Struck-by” incidents are recognized as the leading cause of death and serious injury to all roadway responders. In 2021 alone, drunken, drugged or distracted drivers have caused a record breaking 49 responder deaths and over 350 separate struck-by incidents to our Police, Fire, EMS, Towing and DOT responders. Multiple surveys have shown the majority driving public is either unaware of these laws or unclear on their intent and consequences.

In the United States:

- Two emergency responder are stuck each day, on average, while working along the roadway.
- One emergency responder is stuck and injured every two days, on average, while working along the roadway.
- One emergency responder is struck and killed every seven days, on average, while working along the roadway.

Move Over Laws originated in South Carolina in 1994, when Lexington County EMS Paramedic James D. Garcia was struck and injured while attending a patient at an accident scene. Paramedic Garcia was listed at fault for blocking the road, and in trying to appeal the ruling, learned that EMS were not protected while working in the roadway. This motivated him to create the Move Over Law, which first passed in SC in 1996.

In 2002, the emergence of reality television, dash cams, and several tragic high profile responder deaths finally got the attention of the national responder community. Over the following decade, a version of his Move Over Law was passed in every state, with Hawaii the last state to pass the law in 2012.

National Move Over Day was created by Arizona Professional Towing and Recovery Association, who wanted to promote safety for Arizona towers and bring awareness to the risk first responders face daily on the roadway. Since the national holiday was made official in 2014, support for National Move Over Day has steadily increased. In 2021, organizations across America are taking to the roadways to raise awareness. This year, 12 states, including California, Oregon, Arizona, Wisconsin, Maine, Maryland and Kentucky, are all participating in Move Over Day events this year.



Resources and Data on the Move Over Law and Struck By Injuries

ERSI The Emergency Responder Safety Institute was created as a committee of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. The Institute serves as an informal advisory panel of public safety leaders committed to reducing deaths and injuries to America's Emergency Responders.

www.respondersafety.com

TRAA Towing and Recovery Assoc. of America. Founded in 1979, TRAA is the umbrella trade group and national voice of the towing and recovery industry. TRAA's 2020 legislative agenda includes supporting a Federal Move Over Law to save operators' lives. <http://traaonline.com/>

AAA American Automobile Association. AAA is committed to raising awareness of the Move Over law and the dangers associated with working at the roadside. Since 2007, AAA has been instrumental in passing Move Over laws in all states, including advocating for those laws to cover tow truck drivers and first responders. Additionally, AAA clubs have participated in educational and advocacy initiatives, creating public service announcements and reaching out to state legislative officials.

<https://www.ace.aaa.com/automotive/advocacy/slow-down-move-over.html>

HAAS Alert System. Innovations in technology will help reduce future struck by incidents. HAAS' Safety Cloud helps drivers comply with the rules of the road by giving drivers up to 30 seconds of advance warning of hazards and response vehicles ahead. <https://www.haasalert.com/solutions#move-over-laws>

Rekor Systems, Inc. (REKR) ("Rekor"), is a leading provider of innovative vehicle recognition systems, Rekor supports the use of technology to enforce Move Over violations.

<https://www.openalpr.com/post/rekor-applauds-new-york-state-assembly-for-bill-to-enforce-move-over-violations-and-protect-safety-of-law-enforcement-and-roadside-workers>

DOT/FHWA Federal Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration

<https://highways.dot.gov/public-roads/julyaugust-2013/successfully-managing-traffic-incidents-no-accident>

EndDD.org The End Distracted Driving Organization was founded in 2009 to save lives from distracted driving through advocacy, education and action <https://www.enddd.org/>