



NEWS RELEASE

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MOVE OVER FLORIDA! IT'S THE LAW

~ Be Smart, Drive Smart Florida! ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - *Move Over Florida!* It's not just common sense and courtesy, it's the law. Florida Highway Patrol Director, Col. John Czernis announced today the Patrol will target violators of the Move Over Law from today through Sept. 7. The Move Over Law requires drivers to ***move over*** one lane whenever an emergency vehicle on the side of the road has its lights activated. If moving over is not a viable option, drivers must simply ***slow down*** to 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

"It is not only important that we enforce the traffic laws, but also that we make every effort to educate drivers to make them aware of what those laws are," said Czernis. "Florida's emergency workers have families that expect to see them home safely at the end of their shift. We owe them the opportunity to perform their duties without being struck by a passing motorist."

Florida adopted the law in 2002 in recognition of the several occasions when emergency response personnel were killed or injured while stopped on the side of the highway. In the past decade, more than 150 law enforcement officers nationwide have been killed by passing motorists while performing their duties on our highways.

Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Milton Brown encountered first-hand the dangerous consequences of what happens when a driver fails to move over. In March 2008, Brown was performing his duties in the emergency lane of Interstate-10 when a semi-truck failed to move over and struck Brown's vehicle from the rear. Trooper Brown was the Florida Highway Patrol's Trooper of the Year in 2005 and has received two medals of valor during his career. He is still recovering from injuries sustained during the crash and has not yet been able to return to work. A photograph of his vehicle after the crash is provided on page 2 and can be e-mailed upon request.

The Move Over Law enforcement effort is part of a series where the Florida Highway Patrol focuses on a specific traffic law and cites anyone caught violating that law. The series is called *Be Smart, Drive Smart Florida!* The Florida Highway Patrol is partnering with law enforcement agencies across the state from now through Labor Day to raise awareness and enforcement of the Move Over Law. During the operation, law enforcement officers will work together along busy highways and interstates to stop those who violate the law.

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The Patrol has created Public Service Announcements for both teen drivers and adults, which are available for viewing and download online www.flhsmv.gov/SafetyTips/MoveOverTips.htm. In addition, troopers will hand out brochures during traffic stops. The brochures also are available in FHP stations, driver license offices and other locations throughout the state. Starting Aug. 24, radio PSAs will air statewide on Florida News Network for the next two weeks. Both the brochures and radio PSAs have English and Spanish versions.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.



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