

MOVE OVER! IT'S THE LAW!

Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety

The "Move Over" Law in Georgia

Georgia's "Move Over" Law helps ensure highway safety for motorists AND emergency personnel when emergency vehicles are stopped on the side of a highway with their emergency lights flashing.

This law was created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, wrecker operators, and highway maintenance workers by maintaining an open buffer lane between passing highway traffic and authorized roadside emergency vehicles displaying flashing yellow, amber, white, red, or blue lights.

In Georgia, this law requires motorists to:

- **Move Over** to the next lane if safely possible, OR
- **Slow Down** below the speed limit and be prepared to stop.

This law applies to any emergency vehicle parked on the shoulder of the highway.

The "Move Over" Law O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-16



LEARN MORE AT

www.gahighwaysafety.org

www.nhtsa.gov

NHTSA

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

MOVE OVER! IT'S THE LAW!

Safely change lanes or slow down when approaching any emergency vehicle.



Why was the "Move Over" Law Passed?

- Because it saves lives. The "Move Over" Law helps maintain traffic flow and protect the safety of emergency personnel and motorists.
- More police officers are killed by traffic crashes than in any other line-of-duty cause of death. More than one fourth of those killed are struck by passing vehicles while they work outside their patrol cars.
- Emergency vehicles parked beside a highway are vulnerable to crashes, *even when their emergency lights are flashing.*

How does the "Move Over" Law make a difference?

- Thirty percent of all crashes occur as the result of another crash.
- Providing a buffer lane for emergency vehicles parked on the roadway shoulder actually reduces the risk of another crash.
- When the required clearance is given to roadside emergency vehicles, the margin of safety is increased, not only for public safety and emergency personnel, but for motorists and their passengers as well.

IT'S THE LAW!

- The "Move Over" Law became effective July 1, 2003. Violations can result in a fine of **no more than \$500** for the first offense.
- The "Move Over" Law is another good sense driving reason to slow down on Georgia's highways and interstates.

Published by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

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