

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Motorist Reminder for National Move Over Day on October, 19, 2019

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on a news release for the **October 19, 2019 National Move Over Day aimed at reminding motorists about life-saving importance to move over for emergency response vehicles stopped along the highway (Chapter 346.072)**, a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for two days by:

1. Department's website:

<https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/act369/?id=OPA369&uri=file:MoveOverDay&division=OPA>

2. Mailing written comments to: Office of
Public Affairs
Wisconsin Department of Transportation 4822
Madison Yards Way
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at wisconsindot.gov to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

DOTOPAGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV

October 16, 2019

For more information, contact:

WisDOT Office of Public Affairs
608/266-3581, opa.exec@dot.wi.gov

Emergency responders send drivers a life-saving message: please watch the road ahead, be prepared to Move Over/slow down

Law enforcement officials, county maintenance workers, tow truck drivers and other emergency responders are joining together to send a life-saving reminder to motorists: please watch the road ahead carefully and be ready to move over - or at least slow down - when approaching stopped emergency vehicles that have their warning lights flashing.

With National Move Over Day set for Saturday (October 19), public safety officials gathered in Madison today and used a damaged State Patrol cruiser to illustrate the hazards faced by emergency responders.

“Any time we stop along a highway to assist at a crash scene or speak with a motorist, one of our major concerns is the potential to be struck by a passing vehicle,” said Trooper James Kicmol, a 29-year Wisconsin State Patrol veteran. “The Move Over Law enhances safety for motorists - and for emergency responders who often work just feet away from traffic.”

On June 24, 2019, Trooper Kicmol was conducting a traffic stop along eastbound I-94 near Cottage Grove in Dane County when a semi-truck crashed into the rear of his patrol vehicle. Fortunately, there were no significant injuries, however, both vehicles sustained considerable damage and had to be towed from the scene.

Wisconsin’s [Move Over Law](#) requires drivers to move out of the lane closest to emergency vehicles that are stopped along a highway with their warning lights activated. If a driver is unable to move over, then they must slow down. The law applies to law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, fire trucks, tow trucks, utility or highway maintenance vehicles. Violations can result in a hefty citation (\$263) – or worse – a serious crash. Since 2017, there have been 2,034 traffic convictions in Wisconsin for violating the Move Over Law.

“The safety of the travelling public will always be our primary focus, but at the same time, I’m very concerned about the safety of our law enforcement officers and all roadside workers,” said Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tony Burrell. “Drivers have an important responsibility to maintain safe control of their vehicle at all times, watch their speed, be alert, and move over for our emergency responders.”

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and its Division of State Patrol have compiled several dash/traffic camera videos and photos from crashes that highlight the dangers faced by emergency responders. Dates and locations of the crashes include:

- June 24, 2019, I-94 in Dane County
- December 2, 2018, I-94 in Kenosha County
- September 4, 2018, I-41 in Outagamie County
- July 19, 2013, I-43 in Sheboygan County

To access the videos/photos:

1. Go to this link: <ftp://ftp.dot.wi.gov/dbm/bs/ccs/MoveOverSupportingMedia/>
2. Place the mouse cursor over the file/link
3. Right click and select the option to "Save target as" (or similar verbiage)
4. Select an appropriate location on your computer/network to download the video file

View this document online in the [WisDOT Newsroom](#).