In attempt to help keep public safety workers safe and eliminate motorists from getting caught in accidents, Maine State Police are promoting Maine’s “Move Over” law.

First introduced in 2001, the “Move Over” law requires drivers to move into the passing lane or slow down when traveling by police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, tow trucks and other vehicles with flashing lights in the breakdown lane. Since 2003, 16 state police cruisers have been struck from behind while parked alongside the road.

Motor vehicle accidents are the number one killer of police officers while on the job, and each time an officer stops a motor vehicle or is at the scene of an accident there is the threat of being hit by a passing motorist. The danger exists on every road in Maine, and the chance of being seriously injured or killed increases as the speed and volume of traffic increases.

The “Move Over” law states that an operator of a vehicle passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using an emergency light shall:

* Pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle
* Pass the emergency vehicle at a careful and reasonable speed

The fine imposed for not obeying the law is a minimum of $311 per violation.

[http://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/Traffic Safety Page/move\_over.html](http://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/Traffic%20Safety%20Page/move_over.html)

This law was enacted in Maine to help keep not only our public safety workers safe but also other motorists who are often caught up in the same collisions.

Below are PSAs (videos):

[Move Over PSA Final](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwAuYK3Vv84) (YouTube Standard 16:9..mov)

[Move Over Maine](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f7TtP9Zwb4) (01- 30 second piece)

[Move Over Maine](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hazOo0VXqqc) (02 - 30 second piece)