

# Ohio Public Safety

## Resource Sheet



### Move Over or Slow Down

Ohio Revised Code section 4511.213 is designed to protect public safety personnel while they are performing job duties on Ohio's roadways. Signs are posted statewide on all the major highways. The signs describe the state law that requires motorists to move over or slow down for stopped law enforcement and public safety vehicles.

State law requires motorists who are approaching stopped public safety vehicles with lights activated, to move over, slow down, and proceed with caution. Motorists must safely change lanes away from the public safety vehicle if traveling on a multi-lane highway. If motorists cannot change lanes safely, or are on a two-lane highway, they must slow down and proceed with caution. Motorists who do not comply with this law can be issued a citation.

The Move Over or Slow Down law was enacted after Centerville Police Department Officer John Kalamian and Washington Township Fire Department Firefighter Robert J. O'Toole were struck and killed by a motorist on Interstate 675, on January 12, 1998, while performing emergency assistance.

More recently, Trooper Robert Perez, of the Milan Patrol Post, was struck and killed in May 2000, while performing duties during a traffic stop. Just last year, Tpr. Frank Vasquez of the West Jefferson Post was killed when he was hit by a car while on-foot in the median of Interstate 270 in Franklin County.

Knowledge and compliance of this law is key in protecting the lives of public safety workers on Ohio roadways. Ohio motorists must help ensure the safety of Ohio's law enforcement officers and emergency personnel by slowing down, moving over, and proceeding with caution when emergency vehicle lights are activated.

