

# Loss Control Insights

## Pennsylvania Move Over Law

*Also Known as the Steer Clear Law*

Have you ever witnessed drivers too much in a hurry or too oblivious to move over for an emergency vehicle? Slowing down and moving away from the scene of a roadside incident should be common sense, but not enough drivers do it, they just keep on going.

The display of flashing lights improves overall safety for first responders, highway crews and police officers while they are on the job. There have been several incidents where police officers and others have been injured when oncoming motorists were not paying attention, did not reduce their speed and actually struck some people.

In Pennsylvania, the Move Over Laws are aimed at protecting emergency responders working along the roadside.



Move over laws, which were promoted in response to increasing roadside fatalities in the line of duty. The law requires drivers, upon noticing either an emergency vehicle with sirens and/or flashing lights, to move away from the vehicle by one lane, or if that is not possible, slow down to either a reasonable speed or a fixed speed below the limit as defined by local law. This includes law enforcement vehicles, fire trucks and ambulances.

To put it simply:

- If you are traveling on a roadway with two or more lanes, you must keep a full lane away when passing a stopped ambulance, fire truck, or law enforcement vehicle.
- If you are not able to safely move a lane away, reduce your speed.
- If you fail to take the actions you could (and should) be cited.
- Ignoring this law endangers the law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and tow truck drivers who often times provide critical and sometimes lifesaving services.

The **Move Over Law** is aimed at protecting responders working along the roadside so the next time you see flashing lights up ahead, remember to move over. Obeying this little known law could make a big difference.