

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

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The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office is joining forces with state and local law enforcement agencies in Onondaga County to spread a life-saving message to motorists....

“Move over. It's the law.”

Onondaga County -The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office along with the Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory, the New York State Police, Town of Camillus, DeWitt and Geddes Police Departments are reminding motorists to slow down when they see emergency or hazard vehicles on the side of the road.

Speed remains one of the leading causes of fatalities on our roadways, and poses a significant threat to law enforcement and emergency workers.

In an effort to reduce speed-related crashes, improve safe highway travel and protect those working alongside our roads, law enforcement officials will initiate special traffic enforcement efforts from April 17-21, 2017. Drivers can expect increased patrols on the roads enforcing both speed and the “Move Over Law.”

The Ambrose-Searles “Move Over Law” went into effect in January of 2011 and requires drivers to exercise due care to avoid colliding with an authorized emergency or hazard vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing on the shoulder of a road or highway with its emergency lights activated. Drivers must reduce speed on all roads when encountering such vehicles, but on parkways, interstates, and other controlled access highways with multiple lanes, drivers are further required to move from the lane immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle, unless traffic or other hazards exist to prevent doing so safely.

The Ambrose-Searles ‘Move Over Law,’ was named in honor of New York State Trooper Robert W. Ambrose and Onondaga County Sheriff Deputy Glenn M. Searles who were both killed in the line of duty while their

patrol vehicles were stopped on the side of the road, and to honor others who have tragically lost their lives on the highways while serving the public.

Since the “Move Over Law” went into effect, it has been amended to include not only police, fire trucks and ambulances, but also hazard vehicles such as tow trucks, construction vehicles and sanitation vehicles. The law also protects volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Drivers are required to slow down and move over a lane when approaching a vehicle displaying blue or green lights that are operated by volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers involved in a roadside emergency.

Law enforcement officials are partnering with the New York State and County Department of Transportation for this initiative. Drivers can expect to see messages posted on electronic sign boards along roadways throughout the week reminding them to “Move Over” and slow down.

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