



From Behind the Badge

Is there a new law requiring drivers to 'get out of the way' for emergency vehicles?

Bob K.

Dear Bob:

The law is not new and has actually been on the books for nearly two years. In January 2002, North Carolina enacted the 'Move Over' law. The statute requires motorists to 'move safely away' from law enforcement and other emergency vehicles positioned on or near the shoulder of roads, streets and highways.

When traveling on a four lane highway, motorists are required to 'move over' one (1) lane when approaching emergency vehicles {with lights flashing} on or near roadway shoulders. In other words, motorists should not pass by the emergency vehicle in the adjacent lane.

Drivers are not required to move over one lane when it is unsafe or otherwise impossible because of traffic or other existing conditions. However, law enforcement and other public safety professionals are kindly asking motorists to slow down when 'moving over' cannot be done safely.

When traveling on two-lane roads or streets, the law requires drivers to reduce speed (i.e., slow down please) and maintain the 'slower speed' until emergency vehicle(s) have been passed.

If found guilty, the fine is \$125 and two (2) insurance points.

The holiday season brings forth some of the most congested and busiest driving periods of the year. Motorists who do not obey the move over law are putting everyone at risk, including themselves and their passengers.

Have a safe Holiday Season.

Contributing Author: *Lieutenant Bob Stevens*

From Behind the Badge is an editorial written by Garner Police Officers in response to questions posed by citizens. To submit questions, contact the (Garner Times/News) or Garner Police Public Information Officer Jon Blum at: 919.773.6077; jblum@ci.garner.nc.us