



2024 – 02

**THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF MOVE-OVER LAWS**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is concerned with the safety of law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS and emergency medical personnel, tow operators, transportation and utility workers, and other roadside workers as they perform their duties on roadways; and

WHEREAS, vehicle struck-by incidents are a leading cause of death for law enforcement officers, other first responders, and roadside workers who at the time of their deaths were conducting traffic stops, roadblocks, directing traffic, assisting motorists, clearing roadway debris, or engaged in similar roadside activities; and

WHEREAS, 205 traffic incident first responders and roadside workers were struck and killed by a vehicle between 2019 and 2022, including 82 law enforcement officers, 74 tow operators, 33 fire-EMS personnel, 20 road service technicians, and six Department of Transportation/Safety Service Patrol¹; and

WHEREAS, to safeguard first responders and other roadside workers, states have passed *Move Over* laws that typically require motorists to slow down, and if possible, shift one lane away from a first responder vehicle that is parked or stopped on the roadside; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the Move Over law in every state is compromised by motorists' being unaware of the existence of these statutes, as NHTSA reports that "All 50 states have "Move Over" laws to protect law enforcement officers and other first responders stopped on roadways, yet one-third of Americans are not aware of these laws"²;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Sheriffs' Association supports increased enforcement and education of the motoring public on the *Move Over* law.

¹ <https://www.respondersafety.com/about-us/editorial-column/2023/03/where-is-the-data-on-emergency-personnel-being-struck-by-vehicles>

² Information extracted from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on 1/19/2024 from: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/move-over-its-law#:~:text=All%2050%20states%20have%20%22Move,in%20some%20cases%20jail%20time>