



2020 WILTON DRIVE, WILTON MANORS, FLORIDA 33305

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Wilton Manors Police Department Launches “Move Over” Campaign to Protect Law Enforcement Officers

Message to Drivers: *Move Over. It's the Law.*

(Wilton Manors, FL) – Officers with the Wilton Manors Police Department (WMPD) have joined the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Florida highway safety officials to spread the word about Florida’s “Move Over” law, which requires drivers to move over and/or slow down when approaching stopped emergency vehicles.

Every day on our roadways, law enforcement officers put their lives at risk to protect the public—especially out on the road. For the second year in a row, traffic-related incidents are the leading cause of death for on-duty law enforcement officers. In just the first half of 2014, there were 26 law enforcement officers killed in traffic-related incidents in the line of duty—a 37-percent increase over the same period last year. From 2003-2012, of the 1,540 officers killed in the line of duty, almost half (44%) of those were killed in traffic-related incidents. In an effort to protect those who protect us, every state has “Move Over” laws, requiring drivers to move over and/or slow down when approaching stopped emergency vehicles.

WMPD along with other safety partners have joined together to help get the word out to every motorist: *Move Over. It's the Law.* In 2013, 46 law enforcement officers were struck and killed in traffic incidents. That's why all drivers need to know the law and follow it: to protect those who protect us.

WMPD stresses the meaning behind the national awareness campaign. "It's not optional. *Move Over. It's the Law.*" Florida law requires you to Move Over a lane when you can safely do so for stopped emergency, sanitation, utility service vehicles, and wreckers. If you can't move over or when on a two-lane road, slow to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit. When the posted speed limit is 20 mph or less slow down to 5 mph. When you fail to Move Over, you put yourself and others at risk; you could crash into a vehicle or worker. Violating the Move Over law will result in a fine, fees, and points on your driving record.

Emergency personnel can only do so much to keep themselves safe when they pull over on the side of the road. The rest of the responsibility falls on all motorists. So remember, next time you see those flashing lights ahead, *Move Over. It's the Law.*

For more information about the *Move Over. It's the Law.* Campaign, visit www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov/moveover

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