



NEWS RELEASE

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SAVE LIVES DURING NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

AAA Reminds Motorists to Slow Down and Move Over - it's the law

TAMPA, Fla. (April 25, 2016) – April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. AAA - The Auto Club Group and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) are reminding motorists to Slow Down, Move Over. The law requires passing motorists to give adequate space to law enforcement, tow truck drivers, utility service vehicles and other first responders that are stopped on the side of the road.

"Distracted driving is anything that takes the driver's attention off the road, potentially putting motorists and others in harm's way," said Montrae Waiters, spokeswoman, AAA - The Auto Club Group. "If a driver is distracted by texting or changing a radio station, they may not notice law enforcement or the tow truck driver assisting a stranded motorist on the side of the road. Not focusing on the road puts your life and others at risk."

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is committed to providing safe and efficient highways for travel in the state of Florida. "We are proud to partner with AAA during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month," said Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Jim Boxold. "This is a great time to remind motorists that distractions should be avoided while driving, especially when motorists encounter emergency vehicles on the roadway. Always move over for emergency vehicles or slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit and STAY ALERT."

According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), in 2015 there were 161 crashes and 130 injuries reported as a result of a motorists failing to move over. More than 20,300 citations were issued. These alarming statistics further indicate the importance of the Move Over law.

AAA offers these precautionary tips while driving on Florida's roadways:

- **Use common sense:** Watch for situations where emergency vehicles, tow vehicles, sanitation and utility service vehicles are pulled off on the side of the road.
- **Two-Lane Roadway:** When approaching an emergency vehicle with lights flashing parked on the side of a two-lane road, you **MUST** slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit and approach with caution unless otherwise directed by an emergency worker on the scene.
- **Multi-Lane Roadway:** Slow down when you see the flashing lights of an emergency vehicle on the roadside and - if you can - move over into an adjacent lane. If you can't switch lanes, reduce your speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit.
- **Stay Alert:** pay attention to changes in traffic patterns and speed limits.
- **Be Courteous:** look out for motorists stranded on the side of the road waiting for assistance.

- **Don't Drive Distracted:** Anything that takes your mind off the task of driving is a distraction. PUT IT DOWN – no text or call is worth a life.

By following these simple rules, we are giving law enforcement officials and other emergency personnel space to do their jobs while saving lives.

About The Auto Club Group

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America. ACG and its affiliates provide membership, travel, insurance and financial services offerings to over 9 million members across eleven states and two U.S. territories including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; most of Illinois and Minnesota; and a portion of Indiana. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with more than 56 million members in the United States and Canada and whose mission includes protecting and advancing freedom of mobility and improving traffic safety.