



# Weekly Safety Tip

## Move Over Is The Law



**Move Over is the Law**



***MOVE OVER is the right thing to do FOR PUBLIC SAFETY***

It is dangerous — and could be even deadly — to drive next to a law enforcement officer stopped on the side of a highway... Making a traffic stop, investigating a crash, or assisting a motorist are some of the most dangerous things law enforcement officers do.

“**Move Over**” laws do not only apply to law enforcement — but **also help protect other first responders, tow truck drivers, and drivers of any emergency vehicle with flashing lights activated** while some state laws also protect **utility workers** and other **roadside workers**.

Every state has enacted such laws and they vary. Regardless, it is a driver's responsibility to know their state's specific requirements, because the bottom line remains the same:

**When a vehicle with flashing lights is stopped on or next to a roadway, drivers approaching the vehicle should:**

- (1) Make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the vehicle;**
- or**
- (2) If unable to safely make a lane change, slow down to a reasonable speed for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.**

# **Weekly Safety Share**



## **Flood Waters and Downed Lines for National Preparedness Month**

FEMA's annual, **September** observance of **National Preparedness Month** is about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. **ESFI's** free-to-share disaster safety resources provide crucial advice about how to help prevent electrically-related deaths, injuries, and property loss by taking a few precautions before, during, and after severe storms.

## FLOOD SAFETY: HIGH WATERS, HIGH STAKES

Flooding can occur anywhere, but water and electricity don't mix. Because electrical hazards may linger after flood waters recede, it's important to take precautions before, during, and after flooding takes place.

### KNOW THE DANGER

On average, more **deaths** occur due to flooding each year than from any other severe weather related hazard.

A car can easily be carried away by just **TWO FEET** of floodwater.

Those living **outside** of mapped "high-risk" flood areas file nearly 25% of all flood insurance claims and receive 1/3rd of Federal Disaster Assistance aid.

An area's risk of flood can **change over time** due to new construction, changes in levee classification, or other environmental factors.

In the past 5 years **ALL 50 STATES** have experienced floods or flash floods.

Nearly half of all flood fatalities occur in **vehicles**.

From 2003 to 2012, total flood insurance claims averaged nearly **\$4 BILLION** per year.

### REDUCE THE RISK

**ON** Follow any directives to **turn off** utilities. If you're advised to switch off the main power source to your home, flip each breaker and **THEN** turn off the main breaker. You may also need to shut off the main valve for your home's gas and water.

**OFF**

Be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may **energize standing water**. Do not enter a flooded area until it has been determined safe to do so by a professional.

If your home experienced flooding, keep the power off until an **electrician** has inspected your system for safety.

A **trained professional** may be able to recondition some devices while others will require replacement.

**Fuel your automobile** before any forecasted storms. If electric power is lost, gas stations may be unable to pump gas.

Do not go near any **downed power lines** especially if there is standing water nearby.

Have an electrician inspect electrical appliances that have been wet, and **do not turn on or plug in appliances** unless an electrician tells you it is safe.

Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with **wet hands** or while standing on a wet surface.

### REMINDER

ESFI recommends portable generators be installed by qualified electricians. When not used properly you could be at risk for shocks, fires or dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.



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