MICHIGAN OHSP Office of Highway Safety Planning

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SAVE A LIFE
GIVE A LANE
It's the *Move Over* law

Slow Down! And Move Over

Michigan's Move Over Law

MICHIGAN'S MOVE OVER LAW

Michigan's Move Over law requires motorists to slow down and move over for stationary authorized vehicles with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights activated.

When approaching a stationary authorized vehicle with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights activated, carefully slow down to at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit and fully move over into an open lane. If this is not possible due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, slow down to at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit, and pass with caution allowing the authorized vehicle as much space as possible.

The law applies to these authorized emergency vehicles:

- Police
- Fire
- Rescue
- Ambulance
- Road service

  Road service vehicles include tow trucks and courtesy vehicles operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

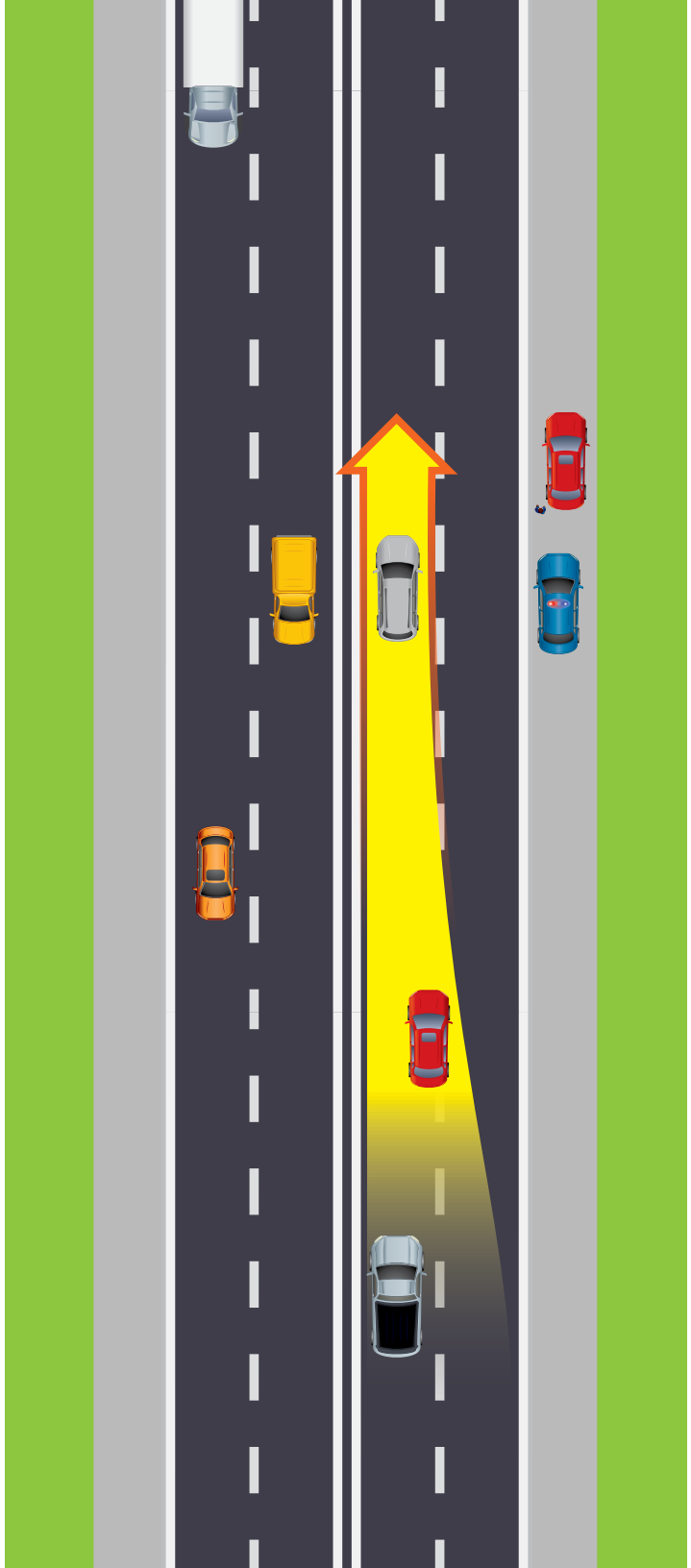
The Move Over law also applies to these other authorized vehicles with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights activated: solid waste haulers, utility service vehicles, and road maintenance vehicles.

PENALTIES

A motorist violating the Move Over law for authorized emergency vehicles is responsible for a civil infraction and is subject to two points on their driver's license and a fine of $400.

A motorist faces felony charges and enhanced penalties of up to 15 years in prison and/or a $7,500 fine if the violation causes death to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel. For injury to a police officer, firefighter or other emergency response personnel the motorist is guilty of a felony and the penalty is up to 2 years in prison and/or a $1,000 fine.

Violation of the Move Over law for other authorized vehicles is punishable as a 90-day misdemeanor.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. If I am on a two-lane road and see a police car on the shoulder and a car is traveling in the opposite direction, what am I supposed to do?

A. *If it is not safe for you to move over into an adjacent lane, then you must slow down to at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit and pass with caution, giving the emergency vehicle as much room as possible.*

Q. Do I have to move over for a tow truck?

A. *Yes, road service vehicles, including tow trucks, are considered to be emergency vehicles under this law.*

Q. If I see an emergency vehicle on the side of the road and it doesn't have its emergency lights activated, do I have to move over?

A. *No, you do not have to move over if the emergency vehicle doesn't have its emergency lights activated. However, you should always pass with caution, giving the emergency vehicles as much space as possible.*