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Press Release

John R. Kasich, Ohio Governor

ODOT, Ohio Turnpike and Others Call for Work Zone Safety *Several organizations pull together to promote Ohio's Move Over Law*

BEREA (Friday, April 11, 2014) – This summer, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) will operate more than 2,000 work zones on roadways around the state. Meanwhile, thousands of law enforcement officers, emergency personnel, towing crews and utility workers will be working all across the state, every day.

ODOT, the Ohio Turnpike, and several other organizations are working together this year to promote the need for safe driving in Ohio's work zones and in particular to note Ohio's expanded Move Over Law.

They're asking drivers to stay alert because even the smallest mistake can be deadly. In Ohio there were 4,373 crashes in work zones last year, including 1,118 injury crashes and 19 fatalities. From 2008 through 2012, ODOT vehicles and equipment were struck 590 times by passing vehicles. Of those, 359 had failed to move over.

"The most effective way we've found to reduce work zone crashes is to work with law enforcement and increase their presence, and this year we have a new tool in our tool box to do just that: Ohio's Move Over Law," said ODOT Director Jerry Wray.

Ohio's Move Over Law is designed to protect the lives of everyone who works on or uses our roadways. It requires motorists to cautiously shift over one lane — or slow down if changing lanes is not possible — when passing any vehicle with flashing lights on the side of a road.

This issue is so serious that fines are doubled for failing to move over — or slow down in a work zone if changing lanes is not possible — when passing any vehicle with flashing lights on the side of a road. Violators are fined \$300 for the first violation (a minor misdemeanor), \$500 for the same violation within a year of the first, and \$1,000 for more than two violations in a year.

"Increasing public awareness of the penalty for failing to move over for a stationary emergency, law enforcement or highway maintenance vehicle will save lives," said OTIC Executive Director Richard Hodges. "The penalty is strong outside of work zones and it's doubled inside work zones."

The original Move Over Law took effect in 2004 to reduce risk to law-enforcement officers, emergency responders and tow operators. It was expanded in December 2013 to apply to every stationary vehicle with flashing lights, including road construction, maintenance and utility crews.

Across the nation, hundreds of people are killed or injured every year when they're struck by a vehicle after pulling over to the side of the road or highway. On average, these "struck-by" crashes kill one tow-truck driver every six days; 23 highway workers and one law-enforcement officer every month; and five firefighters every year. Tragically, stranded motorists are also struck and killed.

When driving through work zones, motorists can increase safety by following these simple tips:

- Stay alert and give driving your full attention
- Follow all posted signs and obey flaggers
- Don't tailgate or speed; most crashes in work zones are rear-end collisions
- Expect the unexpected
- Beware that normal traffic patterns may be shifted

The state agencies are being joined in the effort by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Ohio Contractors Association, the American Traffic Safety Association, and the Towing and Recovery Association of Ohio.

More information about the Move Over Law can be found at www.MoveOver.Ohio.gov.

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