



Madison County Sheriff's Office

Allen Riley, Sheriff

Dedicated to improving the quality
of life for the citizens of Madison
County.

The Ambrose-Searles 'Move Over Act,' enacted in 2011, is named in honor of New York State Trooper Robert W. Ambrose and Onondaga County Sheriff Deputy Glenn M. Searles who were both killed in the line of duty while their patrol vehicles were stopped on the side of the road, and to honor others who have tragically lost their lives on the highways while serving the public. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, since 1999, there have been more than one-hundred-sixty (160) law enforcement officers killed in the United States, struck by vehicles while performing police duties along America's highways. Among other crashes, the death of Mattydale tow truck operator Todd S. Young in November of 2011 on the Thruway, prompted lawmakers to expand the state's "Move Over" law effective Jan. 1, 2012 in an attempt to provide a measure of safety for tow truck operators and highway maintenance workers.

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**MOVE
OVER
&
SLOW
DOWN**

**It's the
LAW!**

**from the
Madison County
Sheriff's Office**

New York's Move Over Law:

Effective January 1, 2012, Article 1144-a of NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law was expanded to include “hazard vehicles displaying one or more **amber lights**”.

This is the law that requires motorists to “exercise due care to avoid colliding with an authorized emergency vehicle which is parked, stopped, or standing on the shoulder or any portion of such highway” and is displaying emergency lights.

Compliance with this law means slowing down to an appropriate speed while passing these vehicles and, if on a limited access highway, moving over a lane if it is practicable to do so.

With the addition of hazard vehicles under Article 1144-a, a motorist must also slow down and move over for hazard vehicles with flashing amber lights as well as police, fire, and rescue vehicles with flashing **red**, **white**, and/or **blue** lights.

Under the New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law,

hazard vehicles are defined as:

- Vehicles owned and operated or leased by a public utility, whether private or public, used in the construction, maintenance and repair of its facilities
- Vehicles equipped or designed for towing or pushing of disabled vehicles

- Vehicles engaged in highway maintenance
- Vehicles engaged in ice and snow removal on a public highway

- Vehicles driven by rural letter carriers while in the performance of their official duties

Drivers who violate the Move Over law could be fined up to \$275, plus a court surcharge of \$85, and sentenced to up to 15 days in jail.

The driver also could be assessed three points on their driving record.