



DON'T RISK IT
SLOW DOWN. CHANGE LANES.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRANSPORTATION LEADERS LAUNCH STATEWIDE PLEDGE FOR SAFER ROADS

Give Them Distance Pledge engages public in vital road safety initiative

DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Illinois transportation and safety leaders are calling on 1 million people in Illinois to join them in 2018 and take the Give Them Distance Pledge, a statewide effort to remind the public to move over for any driver and workers stopped on the side of the road.

Illinois drivers can find out more about Give Them Distance at the 2018 Chicago Auto Show, February 10–19, and stop by the Illinois State Police booth located in the South Hall of McCormick Place to take the [Give Them Distance Pledge](#).

Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov and Illinois State Police Director Leo Schmitz are among the first to take the pledge and share their commitment to safer roads in Illinois on the Give Them Distance website and with followers on social media. [View Executive Director Bedalov's pledge](#).

“Keeping our police officers, first responders and drivers safe on Illinois’ roadways is vital,” said ISP Director Leo P. Schmitz. “It is my hope that the Give Them Distance campaign reminds drivers of the hazards emergency personnel and disabled motorists face while parked on the shoulder of the roads.”

Joining them are a myriad of safety leaders including Governor Bruce Rauner, Secretary of State Jesse White, Secretary of Transportation Randy Blakenhorn, AAA CEO John Smith and other Illinoisans with a special connection to the Give Them Distance message.

Give Them Distance leaders encourage Illinois drivers to visit [GiveThemDistance.com](#), take the pledge and share their pledge on social media, challenging their friends and family to join the movement for safer roads across Illinois.

Launched in December 2017, Give Them Distance leaders came together to raise awareness for Illinois’ Move Over law, also known as Scott’s Law, urging drivers to slow down and change lanes safely when approaching any stopped vehicles with flashing lights on the side of the road.

Illinois saw 1,073 traffic fatalities in 2016, the first time the state topped 1,000 since 2008, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. The number of fatalities stood at 1,078 through the end of 2017, according to provisional IDOT data.

In September of 2017, Illinois Tollway maintenance worker David Schwarz was struck and killed by a semi-truck that failed to slow down and change lanes. David’s wife, Hope Schwarz posted a video to her Facebook page expressing her support for the Give Them Distance message.

Give Them Distance Pledge

The Law

Illinois' Scott's Law, commonly referred to as the 'Move Over Law', requires drivers to Slow Down and Change Lanes Safely when approaching any vehicle stopped on the side of the road with lights flashing.

Join the Movement for Safer Roads Across Illinois. Take the Pledge.

I pledge to watch out for the everyday driver, road workers and emergency personnel on the side of the road.

I pledge to slow down and change lanes when I see their lights flashing.

I pledge to follow Scott's Law.

I pledge to Give Them Distance.

About the Move Over Law – Scott's Law

The state's Move Over Law, also known as Scott's Law, was first enacted in 2002 after Lt. Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver on the Dan Ryan Expressway while assisting at a crash scene in December 2000. It requires motorists approaching stopped emergency vehicles with lights flashing to slow down and move over, changing lanes if possible to make extra room.

While most Illinois motorists are aware of the law as it pertains to emergency vehicles, many might not know that it was expanded in January 2017 to include *any* vehicle with hazard lights flashing.

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