



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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NATIONAL MEMORIAL WALL ON DISPLAY AT HINSDALE OASIS SEPTEMBER 16-23 TO PROMOTE WORK ZONE SAFETY AND HONOR VICTIMS

Drivers invited to take the Give Them Distance Pledge to protect roadway workers

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The National Work Zone Memorial will be displayed at the Illinois Tollway’s Hinsdale Oasis September 16-23 to remind drivers to take extra safety precautions in work zones and to honor those who have lost their lives in work zone crashes,

The National Work Zone Memorial travels throughout the U.S. each year and is being displayed by the American Traffic Safety Services Association Foundation.

The memorial wall lists the names of more than 1,400 people who have died in work zone crashes and now includes Tollway equipment operator/laborer David Schwarz, who was killed on September 18, 2017, while he was working along the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) by a vehicle that failed to move over.

“We are dedicated to protecting our customers, workers, first responders and everyone who travels on our roads,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Jose Alvarez. “Hosting this memorial will help spread the word of the consequences of failing to slow down and move over.”

While the memorial wall is at the Hinsdale Oasis on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the Illinois Tollway is also encouraging drivers to stop at the display and take the Give Them Distance pledge to follow the Move Over Law, which requires drivers to slow down and move over safely when approaching any vehicle with hazard lights flashing.

Drivers will be able to take the pledge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily between Monday, September 16, and Friday, September 20. After taking the pledge, drivers also are encouraged to post their pledge on social media to help spread awareness of the law.

The “Move Over” Law, sometimes known as Scott’s Law, requires drivers to slow down and move over safely when approaching any vehicle with hazard lights flashing. First enacted in 2002, the law is named after Lt. Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver on the Dan Ryan Expressway while assisting at a crash scene.

Several Illinois State Troopers lost their lives this year on the state’s roadways including Troopers Christopher Lambert and Brooke Jones-Story, who were killed when drivers violated the Move Over Law.

Earlier this year, Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation strengthening the penalties for drivers who fail to follow the Move Over Law, including adding a possible prison sentence for drivers who injure or kill another person because they failed to move over.

Gov. Pritzker also increased the penalties for drivers who cut through work zones and for motorists who kill or injure another person in a work zone. The new fines will take effect January 1, 2020.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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