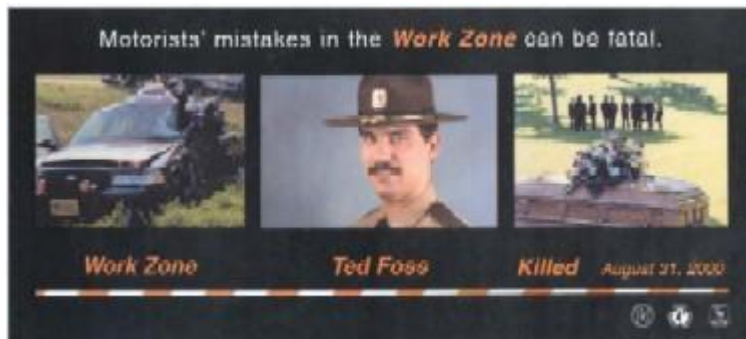


"Ted Foss" Move Over Law



Minnesota Statutes [169.18, subdivision 11](#), reads:

"When approaching and before passing an authorized emergency vehicle that is parked or otherwise stopped on or next to a street or highway having two or more lanes in the same direction, the driver of a vehicle shall safely move the vehicle to a lane away from the emergency vehicle."

To put it simply:

- If you are traveling on a roadway with two or more lanes, you must keep a lane away when passing a stopped ambulance, fire truck, or law enforcement vehicle.
- If you are not able to safely move a lane away, reduce your speed.
- If you fail to take these actions you could receive a citation.
- Ignoring this law endangers the law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and tow truck drivers who provide critical — and sometimes lifesaving — services on Minnesota roadways.

During the 2008 legislative session, the "Move Over Law" was amended to include road maintenance and construction vehicles.

Minnesota Statutes [169.18, subdivision 12](#), reads:

"Subd. 12. Passing certain parked vehicles. (a) When approaching and before passing a freeway service patrol, road maintenance, or construction vehicle with its warning lights activated that is parked or otherwise stopped on or next to a street or highway having two lanes in the same direction, the driver of a vehicle shall safely move the vehicle to the lane farthest away from the vehicle, if it is possible to do so.

(b) When approaching and before passing a freeway service patrol, road maintenance, or construction vehicle with its warning lights activated that is parked or otherwise stopped on or next to a street or highway having more than two lanes in the same direction, the driver of a vehicle shall safely move the vehicle so as to leave a full lane vacant between the driver and any lane in which the vehicle is completely or partially parked or otherwise stopped, if it is possible to do so."

During the 2005 legislative session, the "Move Over Law" was amended to clarify that on roads with two or more lanes in the same direction a passing driver must provide a full lane of buffer space. Additionally, a four hour provision, similar to that for school buses, was added that allows a peace officer to issue a citation based on probable cause for a violation of this statute within four hours of the actual violation.

This law was enacted in memory of State Patrol Trooper Ted Foss. Trooper Foss was killed in August 2000, while conducting a routine traffic stop in southern Minnesota. A semi-truck passing by the scene crashed into his squad car and the stopped vehicle.

In the last three years, the State Patrol has issued more than 1,000 "Move Over" citations. The next time you see flashing lights up ahead, remember to *move over*.