



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TDLR: Motorists must slow down or move over around emergency vehicles**

**AUSTIN** – Texas roads this week will be even more crowded with holiday travelers. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) asks all Texans to please remember to slow down or move over if you see emergency vehicles – police, fire, EMS, highway response trucks and tow trucks – with their lights activated on the roadside.

Texas traffic laws require drivers to leave the lane closest to the vehicles stopped on the road (if the road has more than one lane traveling in the same direction) OR slow down at least 20 miles per hour below the speed limit.

“First responders, including tow truck operators, are vulnerable when they’re stopped on the side of the road helping someone. Tow truck operators are often the first people on the scene of a wreck, and they work hard to get traffic cleared up quickly. Please help make sure that all of us get to our destinations and back home again safely this weekend,” said Brian E. Francis, TDLR executive director.

Driver safety is important to TDLR because we regulate the Driver Education and Safety program, which oversees Texas driver education, parent-taught driver education and the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program. We also license tow truck companies and drivers, who you may need to call on if you experience trouble on the road.

Several Texas tow truck operators and emergency workers have been either injured or killed this year while stopped to help motorists who have broken down on the side of the road.

Other safety tips for driving this weekend:

- Slow down and pay attention to what you’re doing. If you get tired, pull over in a safe spot and walk around to re-energize.
- Designate a (sober) driver. Don’t drink and drive, even a little bit.
- Stay off the mobile phone – this includes texting. Designate a “co-pilot” to be in charge of the phone while you’re driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Stay weather-aware. We’re not expecting bad weather, but this is Texas and you never know. If it’s rainy, slow down!
- Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded. Drive friendly – the Texas way!

### About TDLR

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation  
512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)  
TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989

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*TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 800,000 licensees across the state.*

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese.

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Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation  
512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)  
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