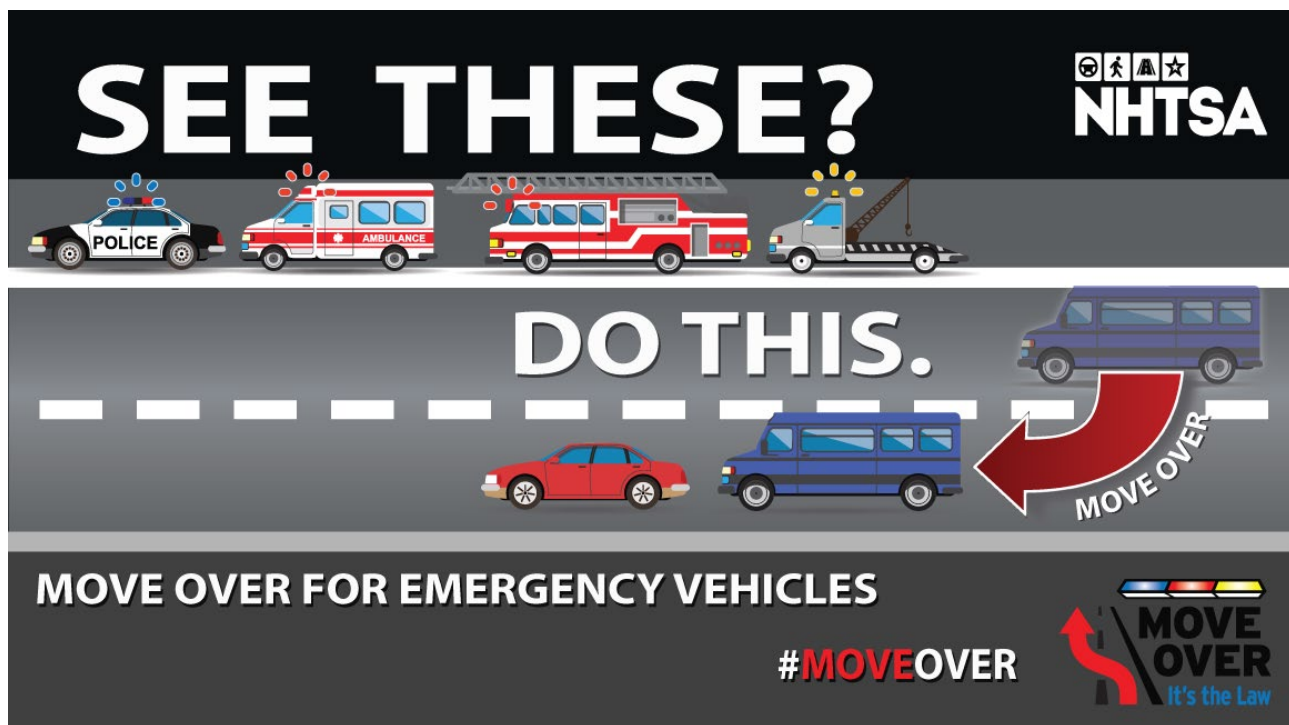




Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2022
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Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
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Christmas and New Year's drivers urged to move over or slow down for tow trucks and other emergency vehicles

AUSTIN – If you see tow trucks and other emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated, do you know what to do?

Texas law requires drivers to slow down at least 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit or, if able, to change lanes when they're passing a first responder stopped on the roadside.

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TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989
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Large numbers of travelers are expected on Texas roads during the Christmas and New Year's holidays and chances are, they may break down, get involved in crashes or be stopped by law enforcement. Pay attention to what's happening around you and be prepared to react quickly.

"Please slow down or move over when you see emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road. It's the safe thing to do and it's the law. Our tow truck licensees work hard every day to help people who are stranded on the side of the road. And, like everyone else, they are anxious to return home safely each night," said Mike Arismendez Jr., executive director for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). "Holiday memories are made when family gathers. Do your part to make that happen for all."

TDLR regulates tow trucks as well as driver education and driving safety courses, and motorcycle safety courses.

Safety tips for driving this holiday season:

- 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.
- Don't drink and drive, even a little bit.
- Designate a (sober) driver.
- Stay off the mobile phone – this includes texting. Designate a "co-pilot" to oversee the phone while you're driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Buckle up – all occupants of the vehicle, every trip – no matter how short. Most traffic crashes happen close to home.
- Traveling by motorcycle? Wear a helmet.
- Stay weather-aware. If it's snowy or icy, you'll need to slow down significantly so you don't slide on unexpected icy spots. If it's raining heavily, turn around and don't drown if water is running across the road. Only two feet of rushing water can sweep away a vehicle.
- Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded. Drive friendly – the Texas way!

About TDLR

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 37 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 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

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*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 and Vietnamese.*

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