Traffic-RelatedFatalities InvolvingLaw Enforcement Officers

Crashes Involving Violations of “Move Over and Slow Down” Between 2015-2019

National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum

NHTSA
Traffic Related Fatalities From 2015-2019

• During the period from 2015-2019, there were a total of 249 fatalities related to traffic.
• 26 of those crashes involved a violation of each of those state’s “Move Over and Slow Down” laws
“Move Over” Crashes by Agency Type

- There were 26 confirmed cases that involved a violation of the “Move Over and Slow Down”
  - State/Highway Patrol=12
  - Municipal/County=10
  - Sheriff’s Offices=3
  - Tribal Agency=1
Circumstances of “Move Over” Violations

What Officers Were Doing When Crash Occurred

- CLEARING DEBRIS FROM SHOULDER: 1
- INVESTIGATING CAR FIRE: 3
- CONDUCTING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: 12
- ON SCENE OF CRASH: 12
Impairment and Distraction

• **11** of the crashes involved impaired drivers

• **5** involved confirmed distracted drivers
“Move Over” Crashes By Agency Type

- 10 Municipal/City
- 12 State/Trooper
- 3 Sheriff
- 1 Tribal

Total: 26
“Move Over” Crashes by NHTSA Regions

NHTSA REGIONS

Region 10: 0
Region 9: 3
Region 8: 4
Region 7: 1
Region 6: 7
Region 5: 7
Region 4: 0
Region 3: 2
Region 2: 1
Region 1: 1
Key Take-aways

• 46% of the crashes involved officers on the scene of an existing crash
• 46% of the crashes occurred while officers were engaged in traffic enforcement
• 42% of the crashes involved impaired drivers
Solutions

• Learn and employ the TIMs principles of crash scene management and safety.
• Require reflective bright colored clothing to have officers stand out.
• Work with other first responders to coordinate scenes and use vehicle and variable message boards to create safety zones.