

## Oregon's "Move Over" Law Changes

Effective January 1, 2010, Oregon's "Move Over" law will see two important additions to the law originally passed in 2003 to increase safety travelers and those working along Oregon's roadways. "Failure to Maintain Safe Distance from Emergency Vehicle or Ambulance" (ORS 811.147, a class B traffic violation) was amended by House Bill 2040 to add roadside assistance vehicles and tow vehicles to the list of vehicles that require motorists to "maintain a safe distance". The law also clarifies what "slow down" means when it's unsafe to move over.

Key clarifications of the amended "Move Over" law:

- The original law specified law enforcement, fire and ambulance vehicles displaying required warning lights. Drivers must now also move over or slow down when roadside assistance or tow vehicles are providing help to disabled vehicles.
- "Slow down" means reducing speed by at least 5 mph below the posted speed limit if making a lane change is unsafe or not required (i.e., two-lane road).