

5 Simple Words Can Keep Linemen Safe

If you're driving on Iowa roadways, what should you do if you approach a utility vehicle stopped on the shoulder with its flashing lights activated? According to the state's Move Over or Slow Down law, motorists must slow down or move over, or you could be fined \$100 for not complying.

Iowa has had a "Move Over or Slow Down" law on the books since 2002; the law simply states that a motorist must change lanes or slow down when approaching a stationary emergency, tow or maintenance vehicle that has its flashing lights activated. Earlier this year, additional legislation was unanimously approved by the Iowa house and senate and signed into law by Governor Branstad which further defined utility maintenance vehicles to include bucket trucks, garbage trucks, tow trucks, and the like. With House File 314 now in effect as of July 1, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative utility maintenance vehicles are now clearly covered by Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law.

As a licensed Iowa driver, you are required to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency or maintenance utility vehicle on the side of the road that has its flashing lights activated. As a safety best practice, we encourage you to slow down AND move over every time you approach a vehicle stopped on the side of the road.

To help spread this important safety message and to protect our linemen from serious injury or death, the electric cooperatives of Iowa have partnered with other utility groups in the state to develop a public awareness campaign. We're urging drivers to take an online pledge to obey Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law at www.MoveOverIowa.com. Once you enter your name and zip code on the website and take the pledge, you have the option to share your pledge on Facebook or Twitter, encouraging your friends and family to do the same.

When you're behind the wheel, keep your eyes on the road and make room for maintenance workers who are on the side of the road. Their jobs are dangerous enough already.

For more information, you can see the following websites:

<https://iowadot.gov/rules>

<https://ia.moveoveriowa.com/>