

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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“MOVE IT” PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN BEGINS THIS WEEK

LITTLE ROCK (9-14) – The scene is an all-too-familiar one: two motorists standing idly by their cars in the travel lane of the highway – bumpers dented, but no one hurt. Other cars move slowly by on either side while traffic backs up farther and farther. The motorists are waiting for the police to arrive so they can move their cars. But do they really have to wait to move their cars?

There’s a common misconception that the vehicles involved in a crash should not be moved until the police arrive. However, according to Arkansas law, a vehicle should be moved out of traffic to a place of safety unless it is disabled or someone is in need of medical attention (Arkansas Code Annotated 27-53-102).

To help get this point across to Arkansas motorists, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Arkansas State Police have teamed up to promote the **“MOVE IT”** public awareness campaign. This campaign is designed to inform motorists of what to do if they are involved in a crash where no one is injured and the vehicle is not disabled.

In 2006, there were 11,507 traffic crashes on urban freeways in Arkansas. Of that number, 6,118 or 53 percent, were classified “property damage only” where no one was injured. In most cases, the vehicles could have been moved before the police arrived. But, in many of those cases, the motorists waited for the police before moving them. Not moving the vehicles in a timely manner causes unnecessary delays for other motorists and, in some cases, causes other crashes.

Special funds from the Federal Highway Administration were used to print **“MOVE IT”** brochures which explain what to do in case of a motor vehicle crash. These brochures will be distributed through the revenue offices of the Department of Finance and Administration, at Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department District Offices around the state and from the Arkansas State Police. In addition, the Arkansas State Police have developed public announcements that will be aired on the radio.

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