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NJDOT promotes National Crash Responder Safety Week Drivers reminded to Move Over for stopped emergency and work vehicles

(Trenton) – As part of National Crash Responder Safety Week, November 8 – 14, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti is reminding motorists to Move Over for stopped emergency and work vehicles.

"This Crash Responder Safety Week, and every day, I urge you to drive with respect for our roadway workers. Treat them like they are your family," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "When you see our team members working on the road, **move over**—it's the law! And if you cannot safely move over, please **slow down** so that they can get home safely."

To support the effort, <u>Governor Murphy signed a proclamation</u> declaring November 8 – 14 as National Crash Responder Safety Week in New Jersey. In June, Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and New Jersey State Police Superintendent Colonel Patrick Callahan announced the launch of a <u>bumper sticker and poster</u> <u>campaign</u> to raise public awareness of the Slow Down, Move Over Law. Florescent pink stickers are being placed on the bumpers of NJDOT and participating emergency response vehicles, and Quick Chek is displaying the Slow Down, Move Over posters in their New Jersey stores and gas stations.

The New Jersey Move Over Law (New Jersey Statute 39:4-92.2) requires motorists to Move Over at least one lane if safe. Otherwise, a driver must slow down to provide a safer work environment for all first responders, authorized emergency vehicles and workers on New Jersey roads. Watch this <u>Crash</u> <u>Responder Week video</u> on the importance of slowing down and moving over.

New Jersey is a leading state in Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training. It brings police, firefighters, medical personnel, transportation, towing, and other incident responders together to engage in interactive, hands-on incident resolution exercises. In New Jersey, nearly 21,000 first responders have completed NJDOT's TIM training. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has recognized NJDOT for TIM Training Best Practices related to the creation of training videos and NJDOT's comprehensive website, NJTIM.org.

The TIM training program focuses on response efforts that protect both motorists and responders at the scene of a crash while minimizing the impact on traffic flow. Multiple agencies working together is a critical factor to safely and quickly responding to and clearing incidents. This year a total of 51 responders have been struck and killed nationally while working in or near moving traffic.

For information about New Jersey's Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program, or for responders looking to receive this free training, visit <u>NJTIM.org</u>.

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