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NEWS RELEASE

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**OHS Highlighting Tragic DE City Crash in Move Over Law
Awareness Efforts Starting Today**

Dover – “Last year, Delaware City Firefighter & EMT Michelle Smith arrived at the scene of a motorcycle crash. As she helped her crew provide roadside aide to the victim, a speeding car plowed into them, killing her. Smith was a devoted mother and community servant, and her tragic death could have been avoided.” Those are the opening lines of a radio ad that the Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) hopes will drive home to the public, the importance of following the State’s Move Over law.

The Move Over Law states that when a driver sees an emergency vehicle stopped along the road, he or she is required to **move over** into the next lane *or* **slow down** while passing if a lane’s not available. The law includes vehicles belonging to law enforcement officers, EMS personnel, ambulances, firefighters, fire police, park rangers and was just upgraded this year to include Department of Transportation personnel. Violators may be fined \$25.00 plus court costs.

“Many people are still unaware that this law exists in Delaware,” said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety. “We hope that highlighting the tragic death of Michelle Smith will capture the public’s attention and show them how important this particular law is. We are very grateful to Michelle’s family for their willingness to let us use Michelle’s crash as a heart breaking example of how dangerous it can be when drivers don’t move over as they are required to do.”

Radio ads will run statewide for the next two weeks through August 17th on WSTW, WJBR, WDSD, Eagle 97, Froggy 99 and WZBH. In addition, OHS is displaying a Move Over Law visual on the back of transit buses beginning August 10th.

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