



**Green Cross
for Safety**
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Green Cross for Safety® Awards 2020 Finalist - Advocate

CPS Energy

Transportation incidents are the [leading cause of death at work](#). More than 2,000 people were killed in work-related transportation incidents in 2016-2017. From 2011 to 2015, 609 workers were killed from injuries at road work zones in the United States.

All 50 states have some type of “move over” law requiring motorists to slow down or move over for first responder vehicles; however, only 18 states also include protections for utility workers. State laws that also apply to utility vehicles performing work alongside the road require:

- Motorists traveling on multi-lane roadways to merge away from a vehicle working on the side of the highway to provide an empty travel lane of safety for the worker, when practical to do so
- If not practical (either due to traffic volume or road design), the motorist must slow significantly below the posted speed limit while passing the roadside worker

The original Texas Move Over/Slow Down law, passed in 2003, required motorists to move over or slow down when police, fire, EMS, TxDOT vehicles and tow trucks were stopped on the side of the road with warning lights activated. The law did not apply to utility vehicles performing work alongside the road.



Utility workers already have dangerous, high-risk jobs. Moving over or slowing down protects not only those utility workers but also everyone else on the road.

CPS Energy has had incidents where motorists have hit a safety cone, hit a utility vehicle, and in some instances, come very close to hitting a lineman.

As a result, CPS Energy advocates for the protection of utility employees, especially when conducting vital electric, gas, telecommunications or other utility work alongside our roadways.

When the Texas Senate Business & Commerce Committee held an interim hearing in November 2017 to address hurricane recovery efforts by the utility industry, CPS Energy provided testimony to advocate for



expanding the law based on incidents utility crews experienced during post-Hurricane Harvey restoration efforts.

During the Texas State Legislative Session in 2019, CPS Energy successfully pursued legislation to add utility vehicles to the Texas Move Over/Slow Down law, requiring motorists to vacate the lane or reduce their speed by 20 mph when approaching certain types of vehicles stopped on the side of the road.

Effective Sept. 1, 2019, under an expansion of the Texas Move Over/Slow Down law, utility vehicles now have the same protections as police, fire and emergency vehicles.

CPS Energy has since initiated a robust public awareness campaign in San Antonio to educate drivers as part of regular storm awareness communication. This effort reminds drivers to “Move Over or Slow Down” any time there is inclement weather or other hazardous conditions.