



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Aug. 13, 2019

CONTACT:
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199

Life or Death: IDOT unveils new ad for Scott's Law

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is expanding its [Life or Death Illinois](#) campaign to include Scott's Law, calling attention to the need to protect first responders, emergency personnel and frontline highway workers. A new video that will air statewide comes after Gov. JB Pritzker recently signed [legislation](#) strengthening the law while bringing together stakeholders to find solutions to prevent future tragedies on Illinois roads.

The [video](#) features footage of Kyle Deatherage, an Illinois State Police trooper struck and killed while making a traffic stop near Litchfield in 2012. Deatherage was survived by his wife and two young children. The video will air on TV, various online platforms and social media.

“We are humbled to be able to put a real name and face to Scott's Law and the human toll that comes with all fatalities on our roads,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Sadly, these deaths are almost always preventable. Trooper Deatherage's family has shown bravery and courage by helping IDOT raise awareness of these life-and-death issues.”

Scott's Law requires drivers to slow down and move over, if possible, when approaching any vehicle with flashing lights. It was named after Chicago firefighter Scott Gillen, who was struck and killed while assisting at a crash scene. In the past year, three state troopers have been killed while performing traffic stops.

“The Illinois State Police is grateful to IDOT for including Scott's Law in the *Life or Death Illinois* campaign,” stated Acting ISP Director Brendan Kelly. “This campaign will honor the life of Trooper Deatherage and his family as well as the lives of countless other troopers, first responders and frontline highway workers by bringing a greater awareness to the sad consequences of violating Scott's Law.”

Life or Death Illinois is the first comprehensive approach by IDOT to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, seatbelt use, work zones, and impaired and distracted driving. The campaign, which this year features stories of Illinois residents who died in traffic crashes, is made possible through federal funds administered by IDOT.

For more information on the campaign and to view the video, visit www.lifeordeathillinois.com.

###