



Powered by Clickability

## Ohio traffic law requires safety around tow trucks

By Associated Press

POSTED: 08:09 a.m. EDT, Jul 01, 2009

COLUMBUS: A new law means fines for Ohio drivers who don't move over or slow down when there's a tow truck along the side of the road.

- One of several traffic laws in effect Wednesday is meant to protect tow truck operators from passing motorists. First-time violators who don't reduce speed or change lanes when they see a tow truck could be fined \$300 and have to pay court costs. A second violation within a year brings a \$500 fine.
- Another change requires Ohio motorists to turn headlights on when they use windshield wipers in the rain.
- There's also a new law establishing transition zones when posted speed limits drop by 20 mph or more, to guard against speed traps. And, the speed limit for trucks has increased from 55 mph to 65 mph on many Ohio interstate highways.

### Find this article at:

[http://www.ohio.com/news/break\\_news/49596387.html](http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/49596387.html)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Copyright © 2008 Ohio.com

A A A A

[Share this Story](#) [Print this Story](#)

## New Ohio Traffic Laws Could Cost You Big

Last Update: 7/01 10:23 am



(Photo Credit: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

As you drive across southern Ohio, be mindful of a few new laws beginning Wednesday.

The Ohio Assembly approved the following traffic laws:

Drivers who see a tow truck on the side of the road will have to move over or slow down (just as they must for stopped police or fire vehicles).

- Semi-truck drivers can now drive 65 mph instead of 55 mph.
- All Ohio drivers must turn on their headlights when they use windshield wipers in the rain.
- The state is reducing speed traps by establishing transition zones when speed limits drop by 20 mph. ?

When it comes to violations, the tow truck law carries a fine of \$300 (plus court fees) for a first offense. A second violation in a year carries a fine of \$500.

The headlights rule will only involve warnings this year, but tickets may be issued beginning in 2010.

Copyright 2009 The E.W. Scripps Co. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

[Share this Story](#)



Scripps TV Station Group  
© 2009 The E.W. Scripps Co.  
[Privacy Policy \(Updated\)](#) | [Terms of Use \(Updated\)](#) | [EEO](#)

[More news and information from our local news partners](#)

 This site is hosted and managed by [Inergize Digital](#).



# THE PLAIN DEALER

## Start turning on lights when your wipers are on

Friday, July 03, 2009

John Horton

Plain Dealer reporter

If it's raining, Ohio motorists had better light up.

- A new state law that took effect Wednesday requires a vehicle's headlights to be on whenever windshield wipers are in use.

The weather provided plenty of opportunity to practice this, too, as precipitation during the opening two days of July kept wipers sliding.

Ohio becomes the 17th state to adopt the regulation, joining Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and others, according to AAA. Daytime running lights that glow all the time on some vehicles satisfy the law's requirement.

Safety drove the measure.

"Anything that makes vehicles more visible is going to reduce crashes," said Sgt. Karla Taulbee of the State Highway Patrol.

State troopers and other law enforcement officers will warn violators during traffic stops over the next six months, said Lindsay Komlanc, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Ticket writing starts Jan. 1.

A citation could cost up to \$150, the maximum penalty for a minor misdemeanor.

Don't look for signs about the new law to sprout along highways.

Komlanc said the state is relying on law enforcement warnings, media reports and general chitchat to spread the word.

The rainy day rule is considered a secondary offense, meaning that motorists can't be pulled over solely for not activating their lights with their wipers, officials said.

Drivers can be written up on the charge, however, if stopped for some other violation. Ohio's seat belt law is handled the same way.

The headlights-in-the-rain mandate is one of several changes to the state's traffic rulebook that began this week.

- Speed limits for trucks increased to 65 mph on many state highways, and drivers can now be ticketed and fined \$300 for not slowing down or changing lanes when there's a tow truck along the side of the road.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: