

*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, according to the Maine DOT Crash Data database, a traffic crash was reported in Maine every 15 minutes, resulting in 33,925 traffic crashes in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency responders working the scene of a traffic crash or other incident may include any combination of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, towing and recovery operators, municipal and county first responders, and transportation first responders, and they risk being struck by a vehicle and killed or injured in the line of duty every hour of every day; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, nationwide 24 emergency responders have been struck and killed while responding to traffic incidents since January 2023, and in 2022, 51 emergency responders nationwide were killed, a welcome decrease of more than 20 percent compared to 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, all emergency responders have a responsibility to protect each other along with the motoring public and reduce the risk of secondary crashes by training in Traffic Incident Management (TIM) with other emergency responders and using TIM best practices when responding to traffic incidents; and

**WHEREAS**, all motorists have a responsibility to drive safely around traffic incidents and reduce the risk of secondary crashes by following Maine laws that increase emergency responder and motorist safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine's Move Over law requires drivers approaching a disabled vehicle or any emergency vehicles move over at least one lane, if safely possible, and to slow down to a safe speed; and

**WHEREAS**, Crash Responder Safety Week is an opportunity for Maine to raise awareness that every driver has a responsibility for traffic incident scene safety, and by staying alert, avoiding distractions, driving safely around traffic incidents, and obeying the Move Over law, we can save lives and protect those who protect us;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of November 13-17, 2023, as

### **Crash Responder Safety Week**

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



*Shenna Bellows*

Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State

In testimony whereof, I have caused  
the Great Seal of the State to be  
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my  
hand at Augusta this first day  
of November Two Thousand Twenty Three

*Janet T. Mills*

Janet T. Mills  
Governor