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Frequently Asked Questions QUICK CLEARANCE



What is Idaho's
**Quick
Clearance
Law?**

Clear your crash - it's the safe move

Idaho adopted a *Quick Clearance* law in 2005. Put simply, the law requires you to move obstructions off the road rapidly and safely in the event of a crash that does not cause death or injury, or if the vehicle is not disabled, does not require towing, can operate under its own power and can be safely driven. It allows emergency responders and law enforcement the space to safely do their jobs. This also improves safety and traffic flow.



Why is this law important?

Some collisions, called secondary crashes, occur as the result of another crash. About 20 percent of all crashes are secondary. The longer the first crash remains in the roadway, the greater the chance of a secondary crash. For each minute a crash is not cleared, the chances of a secondary crash increase by about three percent. By this measure, each half hour a crash is not cleared almost doubles the chances of another crash!

Protect those who protect you

Sometimes emergency responders or law enforcement officers are victims in these secondary crashes.

Clearing the road following a minor crash and giving emergency responders plenty of room significantly reduces the chance that another collision will occur. By minimizing exposure to passing traffic, it's also a safety measure for victims or witnesses. For all of these reasons, most states have some version of a *Quick Clearance* or *Move It* law.

For every minute a lane is closed, especially an interstate lane, it takes several minutes for traffic to recover and resume flowing freely.



Closed travel lanes cause significant congestion and cost Idaho businesses and employees thousands of dollars in missed work time and productivity. Added business expense is also incurred, as well as an increase in fuel consumption and emissions that reduce air quality.

What should I do if I am involved in a crash?

The law applies primarily to interstates, controlled access and major divided highways, but allows a crash on any highway to be removed if it obstructs traffic flow. Signs along these highways help clarify where the law applies. If you are on one of these roads, please move your vehicle to a shoulder, median or emergency lane if you can safely do so and the crash did not cause death or injury.



How will this law impact law enforcement investigations?

The law will not interfere with law enforcement's duty to investigate crashes or enforce criminal, traffic or highway laws. Officers have the authority to require removal of vehicles or debris from freeway travel lanes.



You should do this whether or not

a law enforcement officer is on the scene. If the officer is present and directs you otherwise, always follow the officer's instructions.

Will I be liable if I move my vehicle before the crash is investigated?

No one will be considered at fault for the cause of a collision solely because they moved a vehicle in accordance with Idaho's *Quick Clearance* law.

The Idaho Transportation Department's Incident Response crews assist law enforcement in clearing crash scenes along the busy interstate in the Treasure Valley.

Idaho's *Quick Clearance* law was sponsored in the legislative-approval process by the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho State Police.

