

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch**

**STANDARD PRACTICE
for
Quick Clearance, Fender Bender**

It is the standard practice of NCDOT, based on GS 20-166 to install signs on the highway right-of-way to advise motorists to “Move Vehicle From Road” for “Fender Bender” type crashes. All signs shall be located and erected according to the standards of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the North Carolina Supplement to the Manual, and the North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawings.

CRITERIA

- “Fender Bender/ Move Vehicle From Road” signs should be installed on all interstate facilities at selected locations, as determined by the Division Engineer.
- “Fender Bender/ Move Vehicle From Road” signs may be erected at specific locations on the State Highway system as requested by the North Carolina Highway Patrol, the Department of Motor Vehicles or other emergency management officials based on engineering judgment, to advise motorists that vehicles involved in minor crashes can be moved off the roadway legally.
- Signs may be installed at selected locations on other State Highway facilities where the current traffic volumes have a potential for major traffic delays due to crashes.
- All requests should be forwarded to the appropriate Division Engineer for approval.
- All costs associated with the manufacturing, erecting and maintenance of any approved “Fender Bender/ Move Vehicle From Road” signing, will be the responsibility of NCDOT.
- The sign design for “Fender Bender/ Move Vehicle From Road” signing shall conform to the attached approved NCDOT Standards.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2003 SESSION LAW
2003-310 HOUSE BILL 1140**

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE QUICK REMOVAL OF VEHICLES, CARGO, OR OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAYS AND TO ALLOW DRIVERS TO REMOVE VEHICLES FROM TRAVEL LANES OF A HIGHWAY FOLLOWING MINOR ACCIDENTS, IF THE VEHICLES CAN BE SAFELY MOVED. The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-166 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(c) If an accident or collision occurs on a main lane, ramp, shoulder, median, or adjacent area of a highway, each vehicle shall be moved as soon as possible out of the travel lane and onto the shoulder or to a designated accident investigation site to complete the requirements of this section and minimize interference with traffic if all of the following apply:

(1) The accident or collision has not resulted in injury or death to any person or the drivers did not know or have reason to know of any injury or death.

(2) Each vehicle can be normally and safely driven. For purposes of this subsection, a vehicle can be normally and safely driven if it does not require towing and can be operated under its own power and in its usual manner, without additional damage or hazard to the vehicle, other traffic, or the roadway."

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 2003.