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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2014



Disabled Vehicle Safety



Milwaukee, WI – Yesterday, at about 10:15 p.m., a vehicle struck a disabled pickup truck on the W. Howard Avenue off ramp from I-43 northbound. The passenger of the pickup truck was attempting to push the vehicle off the ramp and was able to jump out of the way, but the driver sustained severe head injuries. The driver of the striking vehicle could not see the pickup truck because it did not have any lights or hazard flashers on.

In the photo above from the crash scene, it's difficult to see the pickup truck on the ramp ahead. Safety guidelines generally recommend that occupants remain buckled up in their vehicles, but some circumstances may require you to get out and away from the vehicle (i.e., in case of a car fire or disabled on a blind curve).

If your vehicle's emergency kit does not include flares or reflective emergency warning triangles, the Sheriff's Office recommends that you purchase these inexpensive safety items and keep them in your vehicle.

How you respond to an emergency situation depends on where you're stopped. In a traffic lane, you have fewer options. The distress lane allows more options to safely get out of the vehicle, if necessary. Keep in mind, walking on the freeway could be deadly.

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If your vehicle is disabled on the freeway:

- **Put your flashers on.**
- **Call the Sheriff's Office at 9-1-1 or communications center line at 414-278-4788.**
- **Determine the safest place – either remaining buckled inside the vehicle, or getting safely out and away from the scene.**
- **If nighttime, place warning triangle signs or flares out if you can safely do so.**
- **Call your tow company.**

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