



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police encourage drivers to “Move Over”

Howard County police are helping to raise awareness about a law intended to protect emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road. Until May 1, all marked police cars will display a bumper sticker from the Maryland State Police reminding drivers to “Slow Down” and “Move Over.”

The intent of the “Move Over” law is to provide an extra barrier of safety for police officers, fire fighters, and emergency rescue personnel working along Maryland roads.

The law, which took effect in October 2010, requires drivers approaching an emergency vehicle that is stopped on a highway and using visual signals, to make a lane change into another available lane. If that’s not possible, the driver is to slow down to a reasonable speed that is safe for the existing traffic conditions.

“Too many police officers die or are injured each year while working along roadways throughout the country,” said Chief William McMahon. “We want to remind the citizens of Howard County how important it is to be mindful of emergency workers, and that in Maryland, moving over is the law.”

According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, more than 150 U.S. law enforcement officers have been killed since 1999 after being struck by vehicles along America’s roadways.

A violation of the “Move Over” law in Maryland is a primary offense with a fine of \$110 and one point. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash, the fine is \$150 and three points. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash resulting in death or serious injury, the fine increases to \$750 and three points.

Howard County police cars will display the stickers until May 1.

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