

News Release



Frederick County, Maryland
Fire and Rescue Services
5370 Public Safety Place
Frederick, MD 21704

Issued By: Lisa Lessin, Community Services Specialist
Fire and Rescue Services
Office of the Chief
Office: 301-600-2283
E-Mail: llessin@frederickcountymd.gov

News Release: 2017-007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Move Over – Slow Down – It’s the Law!

(Frederick, MD, April 18, 2017) – Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services has coordinated with its law enforcement partners in Frederick County to create a video Public Service Announcement (PSA), www.tinyurl.com/MoveOverSlowDown, educating motorists on Maryland’s Move Over Law and the importance of moving over in the presence of emergency vehicles and personnel on our roadways.

This has come in the aftermath of a fire truck that was struck along I-70 by an inattentive motorist as first responders worked on the emergency scene, as well as, the many Maryland State troopers who were struck by motorists last year in Frederick County. The PSA, includes narratives from Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, Chief Ed Hargis, Frederick Police Department, Lieutenant Wayne Wachsmuth, Maryland State Police-Frederick Barrack, and Chief Tom Owens, Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services, as they stand united in the effort to educate motorists about the need to move over and slow down.

Maryland’s Move Over law requires drivers to move over to an adjacent lane, if possible, whenever approaching an emergency vehicle from the rear that is on the side of the road displaying its warning lights. If it is not possible to move over safely, due to traffic congestion, then drivers must slow down, below the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop if necessary. The law, which took effect on October 1, 2010, was put into place to protect emergency responders by allowing an extra barrier of safety while they work along Maryland roadways. In addition to emergency vehicles, including ambulances, fire engines, and police cars, the law also applies to tow trucks.

Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services and its law enforcement partners urge motorists to stay alert when operating behind the wheel of any motor vehicle. Drivers must give their full attention to driving at all times. Texting and driving or talking on cell phones while driving is not only against the law, but also causes drivers to be distracted, often causing destruction or death.

Some safety tips for motorists in the event your vehicle becomes disabled or is involved in a crash:

- Move your vehicle as far off the road as possible.
- Call #77 on Maryland Interstates to reach the nearest State Police barrack or 911 in the event of a crash that involves an injury.
- Stay in the vehicle and remain buckled once you are safely off the road; do not under any circumstances become a pedestrian and put yourself in danger.

By moving over and slowing down in areas where first responders and tow service operators are working, you can help ensure safety on our roadways.

###