Maryland State Police To Join Multi-State Kick Off To ‘Click It Or Ticket’ Seat Belt Mobilization Enforcement Effort

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Pikesville, MD – As the Memorial Day holiday approaches, Maryland State Police will join forces with law enforcement agencies locally, along with those in Delaware, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. to remind drivers and passengers of the importance of seat belt use, while also highlighting their “Move Over” laws.

New to the region’s Click it or Ticket campaign this year, which runs from May 20 to June 2, is a reminder of the dangers first responders and roadway workers face while stopped on the roadways. All 50 States have enacted “Move Over” laws, but very few Americans know they exist. According to a national poll by Mason Dixon Polling & Research, sponsored by the National Safety Commission, 71 percent of Americans have not heard of move over laws. So far in 2019, 14 law enforcement officers have been killed nationally in traffic-related crashes. Law enforcement will be emphasizing move over law enforcement efforts on May 16.

Maryland’s “Move Over” laws require drivers approaching from the rear of an emergency vehicle using visual signals while stopped on a highway to, if possible, make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle.

This movement should only be done if another lane in the same direction is available and the move can be made safely and without impeding other traffic. If moving to another lane away from the stopped emergency vehicle is not possible, the law requires drivers to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

The intent of the law is to provide an extra barrier of safety for police officers, fire fighters, and emergency rescue personnel working along Maryland roads. It is hoped that drivers will become more aware of police and emergency workers stopped along the road and move away from them or slow down as they pass by the traffic stop or incident scene.