



VIRGINIA'S MOVE OVER LAW



WHAT IS THE LAW?

When approaching a stationary vehicle (1) displaying flashing red, blue or amber lights, or (2) that has activated its hazard warning lights, is displaying caution signs, or is marked with lit flares or torches, Virginia law (§ 46.2-861.1) requires that the driver of any motor vehicle.*

Move over: Proceed with caution and, if reasonable, with due regard for safety and traffic conditions, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the stationary vehicle.

Slow down: If changing lanes would be unreasonable or unsafe, proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed for highway conditions.

*The Move Over law applies only to vehicles operating on highways having at least four lanes with two of those intended for traffic proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle. The Move Over law does not apply in highway work zones. (Virginia Department of Transportation)



WHY IS IT CRUCIAL?

By requiring drivers to move over or slow down, Virginia's Move Over law helps ensure the safety of emergency responders and stranded motorists, prevent crashes, and protect those who work on or near roadways.

This simple act can make a significant difference, providing a much safer environment for law enforcement officers, tow truck drivers, and other emergency personnel to carry out their duties. The Move Over law not only saves lives, it also promotes a culture of attentiveness and responsibility among drivers, ultimately making Virginia's roads safer for everyone.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Simply put, when passing a stopped vehicle displaying emergency/hazard lights on a highway having four lanes or more, Virginia's Move Over law requires motorists to move over or slow to a safe speed and remain vigilant.

TIPS FOR DRIVING SMART



Minimize distractions: Keep your phone down and avoid eating or drinking.



Plan your route: Reduce the need for navigation while on the road.



Do not speed: Ensure you can spot hazards in time to react.



Get enough sleep: A well-rested driver is an attentive driver.



Use technology wisely: Utilize hands-free options for call and navigation.



Stay alert: Be aware of surroundings, other drivers, pedestrians, and road conditions.



Do not drive under the influence: Alcohol, drugs, or medications may impair your ability to focus and react quickly.



Keep your vehicle well-maintained: Regularly check your vehicle's brakes, tires, and lights.