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For Immediate Release
April 9, 2019

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HFD Launches Move Over Campaign

Harrisonburg, VA—April is Distracted Driving Awareness month, and the Harrisonburg Fire Department is launching a social media campaign to remind drivers to avoid distractions and move over when emergency vehicles are operating along a roadway. New research from the National Fire Protection Association shows that the second leading cause of death for firefighters is being struck by a motor vehicle. The campaign will feature firefighters and their families, underscoring the impact of failing to move over for emergency responders.

In Virginia, drivers must yield right-of-way to stopped emergency vehicles or reduce speed around stopped emergency vehicles operating on highways. When changing lanes is not a safe option for a driver upon approaching an emergency vehicle with its lights activated, drivers are to proceed with caution. Failure to yield or reduce speed can result in a traffic infraction, and penalties are higher if the driver's actions result in injury or death.

"Our firefighters' safety is paramount on any call, especially those which require us to operate on a highway or busy roadway," said Fire Chief Ian Bennett. He added, "please help keep us safe and make sure our firefighters go home to their families at the end of each shift by slowing down, moving over and paying attention when passing any emergency scene." The Harrisonburg Fire Department reminds drivers to be aware when approaching stopped emergency vehicles along roadways for their own safety, the safety of firefighters, and other emergency workers operating at the scene.

You can follow the campaign by liking the Harrisonburg Fire Department on Facebook, following them on Twitter (@HFDVA) and now on Instagram (@harrisonburgfd) as well.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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