



Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

LAW OF THE MONTH (April, 2019)

This week we mourn the loss of two Illinois State Troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty. In one case, Trooper Brooke Jones-Story was struck by a passing vehicle while conducting a traffic stop. The act of not slowing down or moving over ended the life of a Trooper and effected many others. When we drive by emergency vehicles, utility trucks, and tow trucks, it may not seem like our speed is fast from the inside of a vehicle. However, our deputies and other roadside workers have too many close calls because drivers are not driving with due regard. The message is simple. Slow Down or Move Over! Taking the extra second to change lanes or reduce speed could save a life. Deputies and roadside workers have many other safety concerns to worry about. Please don't become one by driving too fast or too close to emergency/roadside service vehicles. Please look at the State Statute regarding "Passing Stopped Emergency or Roadside Service Vehicles" below. Section (1m) highlights what to do. As always, help keep our roads safe in Dodge County and across the country.

346.072 Passing stopped emergency or roadside service vehicles.

(1g) In this section, "emergency or roadside service vehicle" means any of the following:

(a) An authorized emergency vehicle giving visual signal.

(b) A tow truck flashing red lamps, as required by s. [347.26 \(6\) \(b\)](#).

(c) Any road machinery or motor vehicle used in highway construction or maintenance displaying the lights specified in s. [347.23 \(1\) \(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#) or, with respect to a motor vehicle, displaying the lights specified in s. [347.26 \(7\)](#).

(d) Any vehicle of a public utility, telecommunications carrier, or cooperative association described in s. [347.26 \(9\)](#) displaying one or more flashing amber lamps as provided in s. [347.26 \(9\)](#).

(1m) If an emergency or roadside service vehicle is parked or standing on or within 12 feet of a roadway, the operator of a motor vehicle approaching the emergency or roadside service vehicle shall proceed with due regard for all other traffic and shall do either of the following:

(a) Move the motor vehicle into a lane that is not the lane nearest the parked or standing emergency or roadside service vehicle and continue traveling in that lane until safely clear of the emergency or roadside service vehicle. This paragraph applies only if the roadway has at least two lanes for traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching motor vehicle and if the approaching motor vehicle may change lanes safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

(b) Slow the motor vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for traffic conditions, and operate the motor vehicle at a reduced speed until completely past the emergency or roadside service vehicle. This paragraph applies only if the roadway has only one lane for traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching motor vehicle or if the approaching motor vehicle may not change lanes safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.