

Sept/Oct 2012

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

School Bus Safety

More children are hurt outside school buses than inside as passengers. Most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related crashes are pedestrians, four to seven years old, who are hit by the bus or by motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus.

For this reason, it is necessary to know the proper laws and procedures for sharing the road safely with school buses:

- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a school bus.
- While state laws vary on what is required on a divided roadway, in all cases, traffic behind the school bus (traveling in the same direction) must stop.
- Drivers should also remember that school buses will activate their warning lights and come to a full stop before crossing railroad tracks.



- The area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Stop your car far enough from the bus to allow children the necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert. Children are unpredictable. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.

Teach your children to:

- Always speak quietly on the bus so the driver will not be distracted.
- Never throw things. Keep the aisles clear at all times.
- Never play with the emergency exits.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Hands should be kept to yourself.
- Fighting and picking on others creates a dangerous bus ride.

Special Points of Interest

- <http://www.ncbussafety.org/SchoolBusSafety/SBSTips3.html>
- <http://www.wikihow.com/Share-the-Road-With-School-Buses>
- http://www.nsc.org/news_resources/Resources/Documents/School_Bus_Safety_Rules.pdf
- <http://www.savemolives.com/school-bus-safety.html>

