



Back to School Safety

life  beats

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Back to School Safety

As summer draws to a close, back-to-school season is in full effect.

Send Kids Off to School Safely

- Share the roads safely
- Backpack safely
- Head up, phone down



Checking Signals: Safely Share the Roads

School days bring congestion. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.

Remember to safely share the roads with:

- School buses
- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle, or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they “Check Signals”

Check Signals pre-task analysis



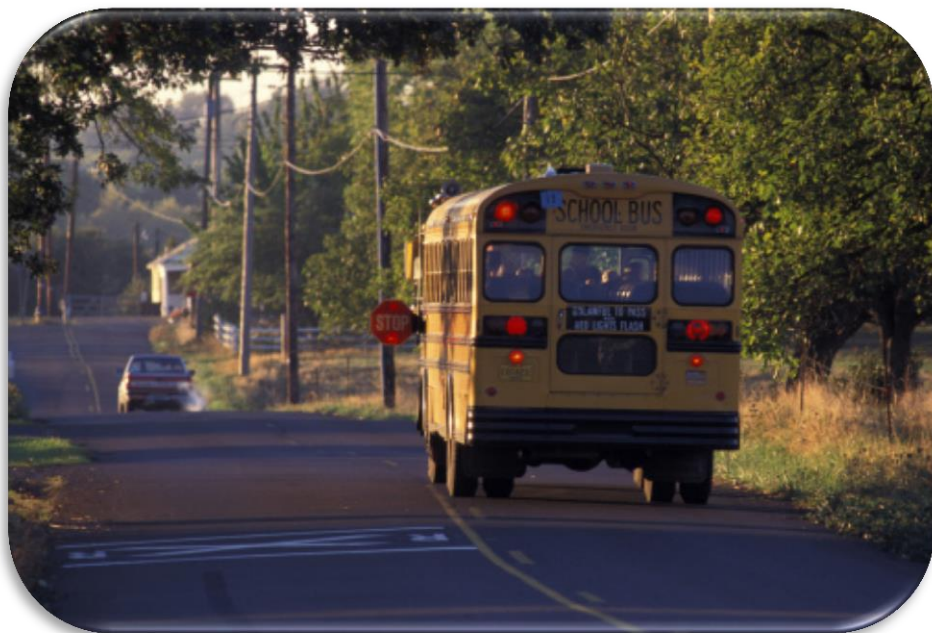
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE?
CAN I DO THE JOB SAFELY?

Focus - Start to Finish



Sharing the Road with School Buses

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. The increased distance will allow for a better view.



- Never pass a bus from behind, or from either direction if you're on an undivided road, if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians

A few precautions for keeping children safe:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- Always stop when directed to do so by a school patrol sign, school patrol officer or designated crossing guard
- Always be aware and take extra care around schools, bus stops, playgrounds, parks and residential streets
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians

It is your responsibility as a driver to be on the lookout and to take every precaution possible not to injure a person on foot. If you see a child near the road, you should slow down and be prepared to stop.



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists

On most roads, bicycles have the same rights as vehicles, but bikes can be hard to see. Children riding bikes create special challenge for drivers because usually they are not able to properly determine traffic conditions. The most common cause of collision is a driver turning and not seeing the bicyclist.

- When passing a bicyclist, **reduce your speed** and leave three feet between your car and the cyclist
- **When turning** right or left, **give way** to the bicyclist who continues the road direction
- **Watch for bike riders turning** in front of you **without looking or signaling**; children especially have a tendency to do this



Choose the Correct Backpack

Backpacks are a popular and practical way for children and teenagers to carry schoolbooks and supplies. When used correctly, backpacks can be a good way to carry the necessities of the school day.

When selecting a backpack, **look for:**

- Two wide, padded shoulder straps
- Padded back
- Waist strap
- Lightweight backpack
- Rolling backpack

To prevent injury when using a backpack, **do the following:**

- Always use both shoulder straps.
- Tighten the straps
- Pack light
- Bend with both knees



Head Up, Phone Down

Before your children head out, remind them of these year-round safety tips:

- Always walk on the sidewalk if one is available; if you must walk on the street, face oncoming traffic
- Pay attention to the street and traffic and not to your electronic device
- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone
 - If texting, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk
- Do not walk or ride a bicycle in traffic with headphones on
- Be aware of the surroundings



Send Kids off to School Safely

As your children walk out the door on that first day of school – and every day – there is really only one priority: **Nothing is more important than making sure they get home safely.**

- Many countries have ‘back to school’ campaigns. Make your child and yourself aware of this.
- Visibility is key, especially when the days shorten
- Carry ‘school-stuff’ in a safe and ergonomic way



Reference: National Safety Council
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