

**CHILD SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**  
**WEEK THREE: BUS SAFETY**  
*~Stop on Red, Kids Ahead~*

This week we focus on promoting school bus safety for motorists and for schoolchildren.

➤ **Motorists and School Bus Safety**

- All drivers moving in either direction on a two-way street must stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal, and must remain stopped until the road is clear of children AND the school bus stop arm is withdrawn.
- On a highway divided by a paved median, all drivers moving in either direction must stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal, and must remain stopped until the road is clear of children AND the school bus stop arm is withdrawn.
- On highway divided by a raised barrier or an unpaved median at least 5 feet wide, drivers moving in the opposite direction do not have to stop for the bus. (Painted lines or pavement markings are not considered barriers.) However, these motorists should slow down and watch for students loading or unloading from the bus.
- Be alert and watch for children especially near schools, bus stops, school buses, and in school parking lots.
- Pay extra attention to the lower speed limits in school zones.
- Do not pass other vehicles in school zones or at crosswalks.
- Do not change lanes or make U-turns in school zones.
- Watch for and obey signals from school crossing guards.
- Only drive or park in authorized areas to drop off or pick up children at school.

➤ **Safety at the Bus Stop**

- Arrive at the bus stop about five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Never sit on the roadway or the curb while waiting for your bus; wait in a safe place away from the road.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop or get into the car with a stranger. Always tell your parents, the bus driver, and a teacher at school if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.
- When the bus stops, wait for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross the road or board the bus.
- If crossing the street, look left, right, and left again. Make eye contact and make sure your bus driver can see you as you cross the street.
- Never walk behind the school bus and stay away from the bus wheels at all times.

➤ **Safety on the Bus**

- Know your bus driver's name and bus number.
- Remain seated at all times and keep the aisle clear.
- Don't put your head, hands, or arms out the window.
- Stop talking and remain silent when the bus comes to a railroad crossing so the driver can hear if a train is approaching.
- Avoid any loud or disruptive behavior that could distract the bus driver from safely operating the bus.