



INSTALLATION SAFETY BULLETIN

SB 23-08-01

Back-to-School Safety Tips

The School year is starting, watch out for children and traffic near schools and crossings!

Drivers - If You're Dropping Off children at school

- **Don't double park**; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles
- **Don't load or unload** children across the street from the school.

Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians

- Most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are **4 to 7 years old**, and they're walking.
- **Don't block** the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic.
- **Take extra care** to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- Always **stop for a school patrol officer** or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- **Never** pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- **Remember Slower Speed Limits** in School Zones.
- **SLOW DOWN** – more pedestrians and bicycles.
- Exercise **CAUTION** in areas without sidewalks.
- **Know** what's behind you before backing.



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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. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing.

- **Stay Alert** near bus stops.
 - If the **YELLOW** or **RED LIGHTS** are **FLASHING** and the **STOP ARM** is extended, **STOP** at least 20 feet from the bus when behind or meeting.
 - **STOP** between 10 and 30 feet from the school crossing when a crossing guard directs.
- **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.
- 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.

- National Safety Council, www.nsc.org

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