

It is always good to remind your employees, when it's time for school to begin, the importance of sharing the roads with buses and school aged children. Know the proper laws and procedures for sharing the road safely with **school buses and school aged children**.

School Buses

- All 50 states have a law that makes it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- **Yellow flashing lights on school buses** are alerting the motorists that they are preparing to stop to load or unload children.
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm** tells motorist that the bus is stopped, and children are getting on or off the school bus.
- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roads when children are entering or exiting a school bus (Red lights flashing and stop sign arm is extended).
- **Stop your vehicle far enough from the school bus** to allow the children enough space to safely enter and exit the school bus. **The area 10 feet around a school bus** is where children are in the most danger of being hit.
- **Children can be unpredictable.** They can take risks, ignore hazards, or fail to look both ways when crossing the street so be alert and aware of your surroundings.
- **NEVER pass a school bus on the right.** It is ILLEGAL and can have tragic consequences.

- Do not text and drive or have other distractions that can cause a tragedy.

Pedestrians

- Drivers should never block crosswalks or portions of the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn.
- **When warning flashers are blinking in a school zone**, you must stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the road in a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk.
- **Be on alert and follow directions given by school patrol signs**, school patrol officers or designated crossing guards.
- Take extra care during school times to watch out for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds and parks.
- Do not honk your horn, rev your engine, or scream at them to make the children go faster. As drivers we must simply use common sense, be courteous and stay within the law.

When you see a school bus, think caution!

Employers should ensure that driving safety is a part of an overall Accident Prevention Program (APP).

You are your employer's most asset! The way that you drive says everything about you and your company. Make a positive statement by following these safe driving practices.