



SAFETY MATTERS

RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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OCT. 15, 2021

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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

OBJECTIVE School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation's students and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. More than 25 million children ride the yellow bus every school day, and **National School Bus Safety Week, October 18–22**, serves as a reminder for students, parents, teachers, and the community to keep school bus safety in the forefront. Here are tips from the National Association for Pupil Transportation to keep our children safe at the bus stop.



GETTING READY BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

- Have students put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things along the way.
- Encourage them to wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
- Make sure students leave on time so they can arrive at the bus stop before it is due, ideally at least five minutes early. Running after or in front of a bus is dangerous.

WALKING TO THE BUS STOP

- Walk young students to the bus stop or encourage them to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.

- Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk, and if there is no sidewalk, stay out of the street. If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at driveways and alleys.

AT THE BUS STOP

- Have students wait in a location where the driver can see them while driving down the street. Try to avoid waiting in a house or car.
- Do not let students play in the street. Playing with balls or other toys that could roll into the street is also dangerous.





DID YOU KNOW?

1. School buses are the safest form of highway transportation.
2. The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the school bus.
3. Pedestrian fatalities (while loading and unloading school buses) account for approximately three times as many school bus-related fatalities, when compared to school bus occupant fatalities.

GETTING ON AND OFF THE BUS

- Warn students that if they drop something getting on and off the bus, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- Remind students to look to the right before they step off the bus.
- Parents/guardians/staff should wait on the side where the student will be dropped off, not across the street. Students can be so excited to see their parent/guardian after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

BE SAFE—KNOW THE DANGER ZONE

- The danger zone is defined as the area on all sides of the bus where students are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver.
- This area is typically 10–12' (10–12 feet) around the entire bus—front/back and each side.
- Drivers and students should take extra precautions while within the danger zone of a school bus.

This California Schools JPA Safety Matters fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.

MOTORIST SAFETY AWARENESS

- Be aware it is illegal in every state to pass a school bus stopped to load/unload students.
- Know and understand laws governing motorist's driving behavior near a school bus.
- Learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists if they are going to stop to load/unload students:
 - Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children.
 - Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
 - Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists **MUST** stop their cars.

RESOURCES

National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)
800-989-6278 • info@napt.org • www.napt.org

REFERENCES

National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT):
Bus Stop Safety Tips





SIGN-IN SHEET

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Trainer: _____ Trainer's Signature: _____

Date: _____ Organization: _____ Department: _____

Class Participants:

Name: _____	Signature: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____
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