

# SAFETY

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### SCHOOL ZONE DRIVER SAFETY

As many families begin the transition of sending their kids back to school, here is an important safety reminder to be mindful of safe driving practices when around school zones. Because of COVID-19, many safety routines have been forgotten. School kids walking to class, crossing guards, and that bright yellow school bus that stops and starts with flashing yellow and red lights are once again part of our normal routine. With the increase in both pedestrian and vehicle traffic, it is extremely important to keep school zone safety top of mind.

As businesses are opening, so are schools. And many people are just now getting back into the driver's seat, as they return to a regular work schedule. Some might be rusty on the rules of the road, especially to the yellow bus transporting children.

It may seem like ages since we've had to remember to observe the school speed limit because there have not been children crowding and crossing the streets, guided by crossing guards, or waiting restlessly at school bus stops. Kids will be zipping to and from school on bicycles, e-bikes, skate boards, on foot, and for the most part not paying attention to road traffic.



### SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

- Flashing yellow lights on the school bus are a warning for you to slow down and prepare to stop. Like the middle yellow lamp on a traffic light before the red.
- Flashing red lights are located at the top front and back of the bus (sometimes including a flip-out Stop Sign).
- Flashing red lights, including the flip-out Stop Sign, mean STOP, no matter which direction you are traveling! (There are exceptions, see below)
- California law requires you to remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing or the flip out Stop Sign is extended.
- In all 50 states, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus that has a stop sign extended and lights on. This indicates that children are getting on or off the bus.
- Proceed only when the children are safely across the street and red lights have stopped flashing and/or flip out Stop Sign is retracted. Also expect the bus to signal and pull out onto the road headed to the next pick-up or drop-off spot.
- If you are on a two-lane road or highway, you are required to stop for flashing red lights or the flip-out Stop Sign, even if the lane the bus is in is going the opposite direction of your driving direction.
- School buses with flashing lights or flip-out Stop Signs that are stopped on the opposite side of a divided or multi-lane highway, you do not need to stop.
- A multi-lane/divided highway is two or more lanes in each direction, and may either have a physical barrier or double stripes.
- Be aware of buses approaching train track crossings. They are required by law to stop, look both ways to ensure there are no oncoming trains before proceeding. They generally pull to the side of the road, provided there is room.
- Failure to stop fines can be up to \$1,000, and possibility having driving privileges suspended for one year.

### 5 Safety Tips for Driving in School Zones

1. Be on the lookout for school zones
2. Expect more traffic during peak hours
3. Reduce driving speeds
4. Watch out for school crossing zones
5. Stop for school busses

### SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

- Drivers need to be on high alert during 7-9 A.M. and 2-4 P.M.
- Observe posted 25 mph speed in school zones or within 500-1,000 ft. of school grounds when children are outside fenced areas. Some zones are 15 mph.
- Some school zone signs have yellow flashing lights to indicate the limit is in force.
- Look for skate board riders, bicyclists and pedestrians when near schools. Be alert to unsafe actions, such as running out between parked vehicles.
- Obey school safety patrols' or crossing guards' directions. They usually have a paddle Stop Sign, and it applies to all lanes of traffic at the crosswalk.
- Allow the crossing guards and pedestrians to safely reach the side of the road or sidewalk before driving ahead.
- **As a reminder, remember to be patient and courteous during this back to school, back to safety timeframe.**

Training Attendance Form

<b>Company Name:</b>		
<b>Date / Time:</b>		
<b>Instructor:</b>		
<b>Training:</b>	<b>School Openings Safety</b>	
<b>Training Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review where yellow and red flashing lights are located on school buses.</li> <li>• Review what a flip-out Stop Sign looks like and where located on bus.</li> <li>• Review when and what type of road a driver is required to stop for a bus.</li> <li>• Review school speed limit signs.</li> <li>• Review driving near school yards and the need to be alert.</li> </ul>	

<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>