



Communiqué

Road Safety as Children Head Back to School

September 1, 2017

Camborne, ON – Road Safety as Children Head Back to School

With Labour Day weekend upon us, we are urging motorists to be mindful of school zones as thousands of children head back to class on Tuesday.

We are suggesting that parents take a moment to review and practice safe crossing rules with their children especially when entering and exiting their buses. Children walking to school, we would like to encourage them to make sure that they are focused on walking, look around and focused on their surroundings.

Incidents are known to happen between 3 and 6 pm, when drivers are coming home from work and children are walking home from school or after-school activities.

Below are a few handy safety tips for back to school.

Parents, Caregivers and Children:

- Walk on sidewalks where available
- Always cross at intersections
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle
- Always walk your bicycle across a roadway

When crossing intersections without signals or crossing guards, children should:

- Stop before stepping into the road
- Increase your visibility and indicate your crossing intention to motorists
- Look in all directions before crossing
- Stop, Look and Listen for traffic
- Cross safely when the road is clear
- Walk, don't run, across the road
- Where possible, use the buddy system

When crossing intersections with signals, children should:

- Push the pedestrian button (where they exist)
- Wait for the pedestrian walk sign
- Increase visibility and indicate your cross intention to motorists
- Stop, Look and Listen for traffic
- Watch for turning cars or trucks
- Cross safely when the road is clear
- Walk, don't run across the road

Railway Crossings:

- Many children in our communities must cross railway tracks daily. Ensure children are taught the only safe place to cross railway tracks is at a designated crossing.

For Drivers:

- Be aware of school zone signage.
- Reduce speed in school zones.
- Be ready to stop at all times. Children do not always notice oncoming traffic.
- Always try to make eye contact with children waiting to cross the road.
- Be patient and wait for children to complete their crossing before proceeding.
- Stop when directed to do so by a crossing guard.

For other tips and material, visit:

1. <https://canadasafetycouncil.org/news/back-school-buses-are-back>,
2. <https://www.getprepared.qc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/sfttps/tp201009-en.aspx>
3. <http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/back-to-school-safety-tips-for-drivers.aspx>

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