Training Outline

Goal:
To provide the knowledge and skills to safely share the road with school buses.

1. The law
2. School bus light system
3. Case study
4. Reminders for drivers
5. Non-traditional vehicles
6. Student and parent tips
On average, 24 children are killed in school bus accidents each year.

1/3 of these fatalities occur when a child is struck by a bus in loading/unloading zone.

1/3 are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the school bus.

1/3 are pedestrians who are killed as they approach or leave the bus stop.

More deaths occurred between 3-4pm than any other time of day.
It is absolutely illegal to pass a stopped school bus while loading or unloading children.

Colorado law states that: “Upon meeting or overtaking from either direction a school bus that has stopped, a motor vehicle driver must stop at least 20 feet before reaching the bus and not proceed until the visual signal lights are no longer being used.”
When to Stop for a School Bus

Two lane road: Blue car stops, Green car stops

Divided road: Blue car stops, Green goes

Four Lane road: Blue car stops, Gray car stops, Green goes
The fines for dangerous behavior:

- Up to $300, a mandatory court appearance, and six points off of your driver’s license
- A second offense within a five-year period will cost $1,000
- Many areas are equipping buses with cameras to photograph license plate of offenders.

_When it comes to our children the most important advice is to be alert_
Case Study

- Florida: 10,719 stopped-arm violations
- Virginia: 3,394 stopped-arm violations
- Texas: 12,850 stopped-arm violation

*Let’s do the math:*

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\frac{3,394 \text{ stopped–arm violation}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{180 \text{ school days}}{\text{year}} = 610,920 \frac{\text{stopped–arm violation}}{\text{year}}
\]
School Bus Light Warning System

School Buses are Like Traffic Signals

When overhead lights are flashing yellow: Prepare to Stop

When overhead lights are flashing red: Stop!

When hazard warning lights are flashing: Proceed with Caution
Reminders for Drivers
Basic Tips for Bus Stops

Unfortunately, most school bus stops are not clearly marked with warning signs.

- Children may gather on the side of rural highways or suburban side streets while waiting for their bus to arrive.
- Be sure to slow down and be aware of your surroundings to avoid injuring a child.
Basic Tips for Bus Stops

Children Are Unpredictable!

- A child at risk of missing the bus may run out in front of you while trying to get the driver’s attention.
- Children are easily distracted, walking and texting, video games, earphones and music. You need to see them because they won’t see you!
Basic Tips for Bus Stops

Children are unpredictable!

- Children walking to and from their bus stops are comfortable with the area and therefore become complacent.
- Groups of children waiting for the bus play games such as hide and seek, or jump out and scare each other. This may mean they are jumping out in front of your car.
Basic Tips for Bus Stops

Time of day

- School operations occur during the darkest half of the year.
- Many buses are on the road before 6am, and field trips may have buses on the road late in the evening.

Can you spot the 3rd grader?
In city areas, students may be riding public transit to and from school..

- Transit buses do not have the same warning equipment (swing arm, flashing lights), therefore it may not be obvious that students are loading or unloading.
- Slow down and be mindful of anyone getting on public transit.
Some special education facilities may use vans, sedans, or other types of vehicles to transport children.

- These vehicle may or may not be marked transporting children, but follow the same procedures as school buses.
- Be patient and mindful of the extra time it may take to load or unload a child with disabilities.
Tips for Students and Parents
Tips for Students and Parents

- Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the edge of the road and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it is okay to enter before stepping on the bus.
Tips for Students and Parents

• When crossing the street in front of the bus be at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross.
• Make eye contact with the bus driver. Be sure the bus driver can see you, and you can see the driver.
Tips for Students and Parents

- Walk at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the side of the bus any time you are walking beside the bus.
- Never walk behind the school bus.
- If you drop something near or under the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up.
- Never accept rides from strangers.
Conclusion

Do you feel you have the knowledge and skills to share the road with school buses?

The law

School bus light system

Reminders for drivers

Non-traditional vehicles

Student tips
Questions or Concerns

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