

Prevention Pipeline

NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
OSFM INJURY PREVENTION DIVISION
and SAFE KIDS NORTH CAROLINA
888-347-3737 • safekidsnc.org

newsletter

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Mike Causey Insurance Commissioner • State Fire Marshal • Safe Kids NC Chair

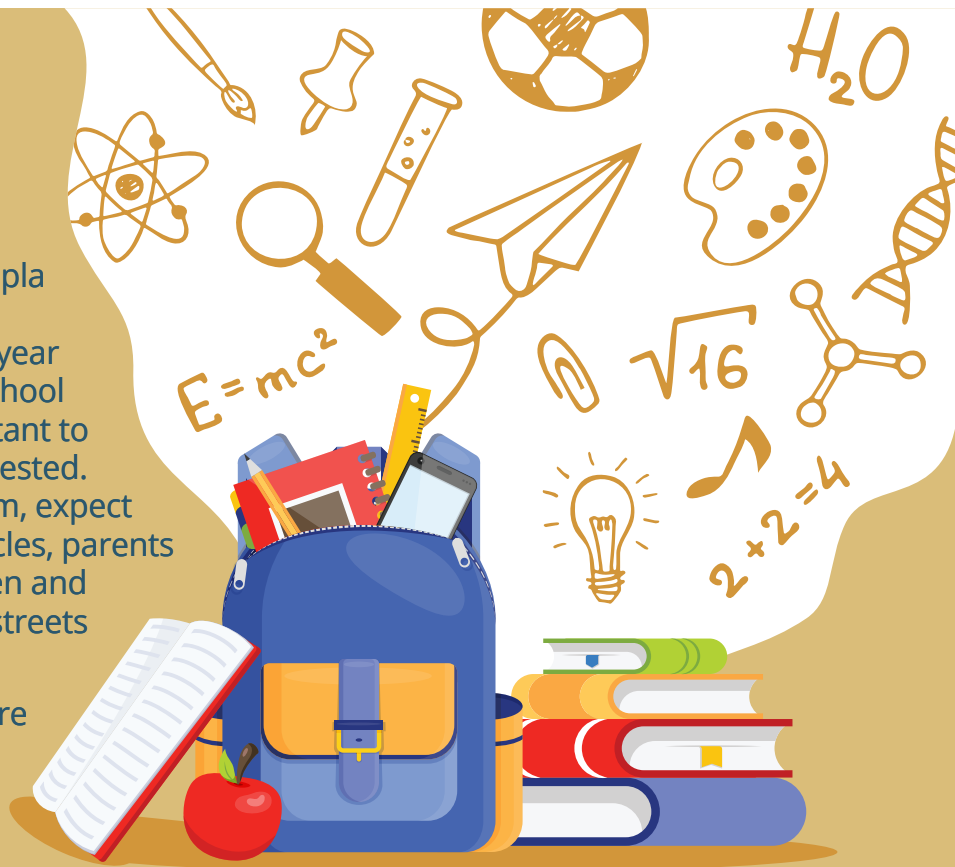
IT'S TIME FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

With COVID-19 restrictions, the 2019-2020 school year ended without the normal hoopla we are all accustomed to. While we are uncertain as to how the 2020-2021 school year will proceed, we are certain that back-to-school safety is a priority for everyone. It is important to recognize that the roads will be more congested. As children begin to return to the classroom, expect roadways to be filled with children on bicycles, parents hurrying to drop off or pick up their children and slow-moving school buses on community streets and roads.

If you are picking up or dropping off, be sure to follow the school's procedures. The school's procedures are set in place to protect all children. Please keep this information in mind:

- Don't unload children across the street from the school. This puts them at risk, trying to cross the street. Carpooling, when possible, helps to reduce traffic around the school.
- Share the road by keeping crosswalks clear.
- Stop for crossing guards or law enforcement that may be directing traffic.
- Never pass a stopped vehicle or school bus and always watch for pedestrians, no matter who has the right-of-way.
- Be knowledgeable of the school bus passing laws and follow them to prevent injury to students loading and unloading.
- Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles; however, they are less visible.

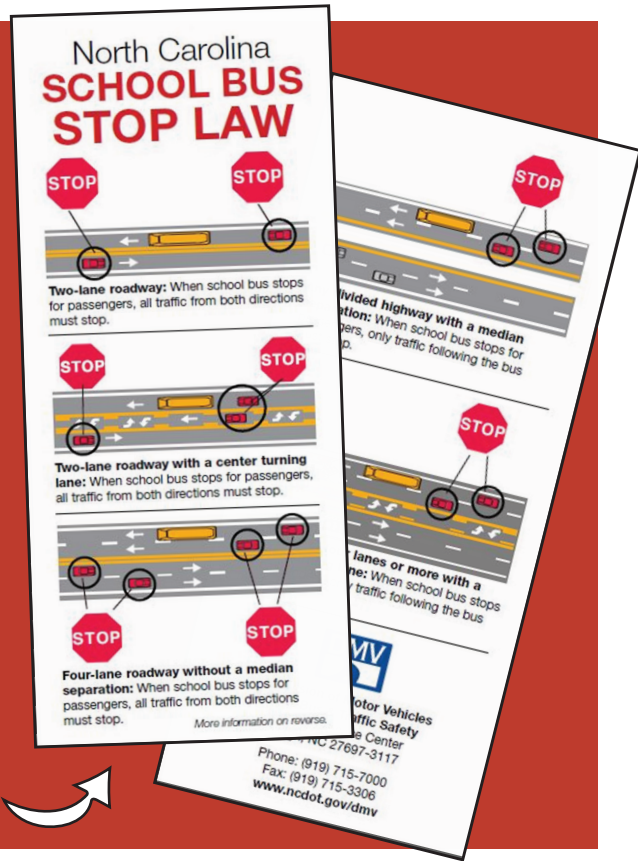
Children do not completely develop their distance and speed perception until after the age of fourteen. Because of this, children may make mistakes that can lead to misunderstandings by vehicle drivers. Staying on guard and being cautious can prevent injury or death.



WHAT DRIVERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE STATE'S SCHOOL BUS SAFETY LAWS:

- On a two-lane road, all traffic from both directions must stop;
- On a two-lane road with a center turning lane, all traffic must come to a stop;
- When on a four-lane road without a median, traffic from both directions must stop;
- In the case of a divided highway with four or more lanes, only traffic following the school bus should stop; and
- When on a road with four lanes or more with a center turning lane, just traffic following the bus must stop.

Download your copy of this NC School Bus Stop Law rack card from ncbussafety.org [HERE](#).



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Each day more than 800,000 students in North Carolina travel on the bus to and from school. Here are some school bus safety tips your student should know to keep them safe while making that daily ride:

- When on the way to the bus stop, always walk on the sidewalk. If there isn't one, stay out of the street.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before approaching the bus or standing on the bus.
- Cross in front of the bus – at least 10 feet– and make eye contact with the driver before crossing. If you can't see the bus driver, they can't see you.

There are nearly 3,000 incidents of cars passing stopped school buses every school day in North Carolina. Not only is this incredibly dangerous for students, it's also against the law.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

www.ncbussafety.org

North Carolina School Bus Safety Web is a site created by N.C. State University in conjunction with the Governor's Highway Safety Program. This site is a great resource for parents, schools, community educators and students. Interactive games, infographics, state laws, training resources and downloadable posters are just a few of the many resources available on this site.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Penalties for passing a stopped school bus include a \$500 fine and an additional four insurance points,

which will increase insurance rates by 80 percent. It's imperative that drivers also slow down and obey the posted speed limit in a school zone – a child's life could depend on it. (NCDOT)

OCTOBER 19 – 23 IS SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
THE THEME IS "RED LIGHT MEANS STOP!"



KEEP KIDS SAFE FROM **LAWN MOWER INJURIES**

Did you know that your lawn mower is one of the most dangerous tools around your home, and more than 16,000 children and teens are hurt each year while using a lawn mower? Power mowers can be especially dangerous to children; however, most lawn mower-related injuries can be prevented by following simple safety guidelines.

Many parents often ask, “When is my child old enough to mow the lawn?”. In general, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that a child should be at least 12 years of age to operate a walk-behind power mower or hand mower safely, and 16 years of age to operate a riding lawn mower safely. Also, your child should show the maturity, good judgement, strength and coordination the job requires.

While mowing:

- Do not allow children to ride as passengers when cutting the grass.
- Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, fitted clothing, safety glasses, and hearing protection.
- Supervise children when mowing and while putting gas in the engine. Small children should not be playing in the yard while a lawn mower is being used.
- Watch for objects that could be picked up and thrown by the mower blades.
- Avoid mowing in reverse or backwards unless necessary.

Lawn mower injuries are often extremely traumatic, and can include severe eye injury, amputation or death. For more safety tips, visit [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org). Have a safe summer!

WHEN CAN KIDS MOW THE LAWN?



PUSH MOWER

Age **12**
or older



RIDING MOWER

Age **16**
or older

- Kids must be both strong and mature enough.
- Train teens to operate the mower safely.
- Wear eye protection, and closed toe shoes.

CPS TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION CLASSES

July 27 - 30	Spring Lake
August 10	Raeford (Renewal)
August 11 - 14	Raeford
August 17 - 20	Apex
September 8 - 11	Indian Trail
September 15 - 18	Morehead City
September 15 - 18	Elkin
September 22 - 25	West Jefferson

For more information on how to register for a class, visit buckleupnc.org.



This year's Fire Prevention Week Theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen." Unattended cooking is the leading cause of housefires. Nearly half of all home cooking fires involve the kitchen stove. With the current "Safer at Home" restrictions, many are choosing to stay at home and prepare home cooked meals. This increases the risk for potential home cooking fires.

Cooking Tips:

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- If you must leave the room, turn off the stove.
- Keep an eye on foods that are simmering, baking or roasting. Set a timer to remind you that you are still cooking.
- If you have a SMALL fire and choose to extinguish it, follow these instructions:
 - Smother stovetop flames by sliding a lid over the pan.
 - Oven fire: turn off the stove and keep the oven door closed.
 - If you have any doubt about whether to battle a small fire, escape the home and call 9-1-1.

Please visit nfpa.org/fpw for games, videos, educational materials and more.

THE SUN IS OUT AVOID GETTING BURNED



Sunburn is a common summertime injury. Unprotected skin can be burned by the sun's UV rays in as little as 15 minutes, but it can take up to 12 hours for the skin to show the damage. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends staying out of the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. This is when UV rays are at their highest level. Sunscreen is recommended for anyone working and playing outside in the summer, even on cloudy days. Be sure to use a sunscreen that is SPF 15 or higher and check the label for "blocks UVA and UVB" or "broad spectrum." In addition to sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, and long sleeves are also recommended for outdoor activities.

SCHEDULED RISK AREAS

AUGUST 2020
Sports Safety

Emergency Preparedness

CPS Week