



STATE SAFETY OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110



SAFETY MESSAGE 22-08

August is Back to School Safety Awareness

With summer ending and the start of school just around the corner, drivers need to do their part to keep kids safe as they walk and bike to school. Whether you are taking your kids to school or just driving through a school zone, you can do your part to keep kids safe.

School bus-related crashes killed 54 people nationwide in 2020, down by over 50% compared to 2019 according to National Safety Council (NSC) tabulations of data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It is likely that this sharp decline was a result of fewer school bus trips occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. However, 2020 school bus transportation statistics are not yet available to confirm this possibility.

A school bus-related crash is defined by NHTSA as any crash in which a vehicle, regardless of body design, used as a school bus is directly or indirectly involved. This includes incidents involving school children getting in or out of a vehicle.

From 2011 to 2020, about 70% of the deaths in school bus-related crashes were occupants of vehicles other than the school bus, and 16% were pedestrians. About 5% were school bus passengers, 5% were school bus drivers, and 3% were pedal cyclists.

Of the people injured in school bus-related crashes from 2011 to 2020, about 33% were school bus passengers, 8% were school bus drivers, and 54% were occupants of other vehicles. The remainder were pedestrians, pedal cyclists, and other or unknown.

August is designated as Back-to-School Safety Month, and we want to remind motorists to be extra careful at all times. Follow the tips below to make sure you keep your children safe while walking and biking to school.

Back to School Safety Tips

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

Reminders for your kids:

- Cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
 - Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
 - Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
 - Always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them
-

To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

New York Army National Guard Safety Office Points of Contact:**Safety and Occupational Health Manager:**

Alicia Howard

alicia.l.howard.civ@army.mil

(518) 786-6097

Occupational Health Nurse:

Valerie Schwalbach

valerie.a.schwalbach.civ@army.mil

(518) 786-4329

Safety Specialist:

Matthew Williams

matthew.s.williams117.mil@army.mil

(518) 786-6040

Safety Specialist:

Chuck Austin

charles.b.austin2.civ@army.mil

(518) 786-6121

M-Day Safety Specialist:

LTC Alexander Prezioso

alexander.prezioso.mil@army.mil

M-Day Safety Specialist:

CW3 David Morton

david.t.morton.civ@army.mil

M-Day Safety Specialist:

MSG Jerry Peace

jerry.l.peace.mil@army.mil

IH Technician

SFC Thomas Phipps

Thomas.c.phipps.mil@army.mil

M-Day Safety Specialist:

SFC Adama Ilboudo

adama.ilboudo.mil@army.mil