



NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SAFETY OFFICE **RISK MANAGEMENT MONTHLY**

**August
2025**

August is Back To School Safety Month!



Useful Links

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

www.nhtsa.gov/back-school-safety/keeping-children-safe

National Safety Council

www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/school-safety/school-safety-home



NHTSA



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY TIPS

With the end of summer approaching and children going back to school, it's important to think about driving safely around school zones. Follow these tips to help keep our school zones safe:



Slow Down!
The speed limit in school zones is 25 mph unless otherwise



Watch for Bikes!
Use extreme caution and always be alert



Stop for Crossguards!
Always stop while children are crossing



Stop for Buses!
Passing a stopped school bus is against the law



Watch for Pedestrians!
Especially on sidewalks and intersections



No Double Parking!
Blocks visibility for other children and vehicles



Carpool!
Reduces the number of vehicles in school zones



Avoid Distractions!
Don't text and drive!



10 TIPS ON GOOD BACKPACK ERGONOMICS



1. Choose a backpack with wide padded shoulder straps.



2. Wear both shoulder straps to prevent shoulder alignment issues.



3. Never overpack! Backpack should never weigh more than 15% of your body weight.



4. Always lift your backpack by squatting down and using your legs to lift, not your back.



5. Look for backpacks with a waist and chest belt to better distribute heavy loads.



6. Position the backpack below your shoulders and above your hips.



7. A backpack with multiple compartments can better distribute the load.



8. Encourage your child to remove their backpack when waiting in line or standing for a long time.



9. Every few weeks, clean out your backpack for unused items that may be weighing you down.



10. Look for backpacks that stand upright when placed on the ground.

Safety Tools & Resources



*The New York Army
National Guard Safety
Webpage*



*The Army National Guard
Safety Website*



*Is your command compliant?
Initiate a Command Safety
Assessment*



*The United States Army
Combat Readiness Center
Website*



*The future of Safety
Reporting and Statistics
for the Army*



*Create & Manage your
deliberate risk management
worksheets online*

Proponent for this Monthly Newsletter is the NYARNG Safety Team

New York Army National Guard, ATTN: MNAV-OS, 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, New York 12110-3514

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Obey school zone speed limit signs and all traffic rules.
- Drop off and pick up children in the designated areas.
- Put away your cellphone.
- Travel at lower speeds when near bus stops. Watch for children!
- Be prepared to stop for children running across the street and between vehicles.



TIPS FOR STUDENTS

1. MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS BEFORE CROSSING.
2. MOVE SWIFTLY ACROSS STREETS AND AVOID DISTRACTIONS.
3. WALK ON SIDEWALKS.
4. LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET.
5. LISTEN TO THE BUS DRIVER.
6. NEVER ATTEMPT TO CROSS A MULTI-LANE HIGHWAY.
7. PUT AWAY ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
8. OBEY CROSSING GUARDS.
9. DON'T RUN BETWEEN VEHICLES.
10. STAY ALERT.
11. CROSS AT INTERSECTIONS AND DESIGNATED CROSSWALKS.
12. WEAR A HELMET WHEN RIDING A BIKE.



Slow Down
& Stay Alert



Watch for
Pedestrians



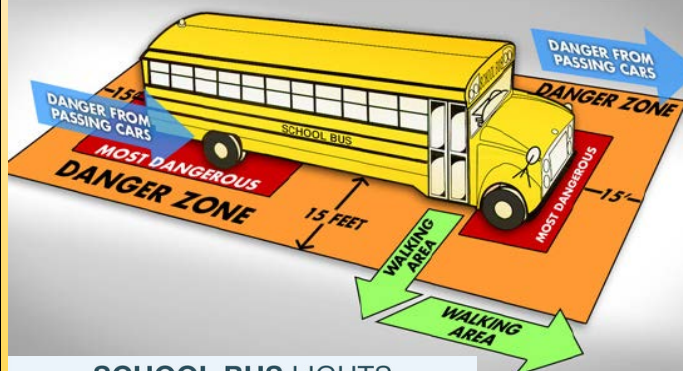
Enter/Exit
driveways
slowly



Reduce
distractions



Watch for children in
the morning & after
school hours



SCHOOL BUS LIGHTS



YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS
THE BUS IS PREPARING TO STOP

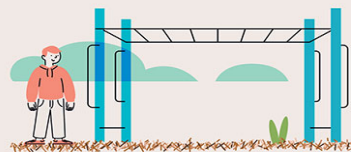


RED FLASHING LIGHTS AND EXTENDED STOP ARMS
DRIVERS MUST STOP AND WAIT THE RED LIGHTS STOP

SCHOOL'S OPEN
DRIVE CAREFULLY



safety tips for the playground



If possible, choose playgrounds with surfaces made from **wood chips or shredded rubber** to lessen the risk of injury.



Choose the right play equipment for your child's **age and skills** and maintain adult supervision.



Dress your child properly for the playground – no necklaces, scarves, purses or clothing that could get caught around their neck and pose a hazard.

Use play equipment properly. **Never** climb up slides – use the ladder or stairs. **Never** jump from the swings or the top of the slide.



did you know?

Monkey bars cause half of all serious playground falls.

More than 50 million students will head into the classrooms, according to the National Center for Education Statistics

Schedule medical and dental check-ups before school starts. Some will need immunizations.



If your child takes the bus, establish a safe, visible pick up/drop off spot, preferably with a group of children and in an area with adult supervision.



Review and do a dry run with your child of his or her route to school, explaining potential hazards along the way. If your child walks to school, make sure they understand potential traffic dangers.

Coordinate with a school nurse and your child's physician to develop action plans for any health issues, such as asthma or food allergies. Communicate these plans to all caregivers.



Develop a family emergency plan in case something happens on the way to (or from) and while at school. Make sure your child knows how to telephone for help.



Complete a consent-to-treat form and give copies to the school nurse and any day care providers to keep in your child's record and to take with them if your child needs to go to the emergency department. The form will allow caregivers to authorize medical treatment.



Organize your child's medical history forms and emergency medical contact information. The form should include medical history, allergies, prescription medicine and emergency contacts. Download a free form at www.EmergencyCareForYou.org

American College of
Emergency Physicians
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

State Safety Points of Contact

Safety & Occupational Health Manager

Alicia Howard

alicia.l.howard.civ@army.mil

COM: 518-786-6097

DSN: 489-6097

M-Day Safety Officer

COL Shawn Hatch

shawn.c.hatch2.mil@army.mil

M-Day Safety Officer

LTC Alexander Prezioso

alexander.prezioso.mil@army.mil

Safety Specialist

Chuck Austin

charles.b.austin2.civ@army.mil

COM: 518-786-6121

DSN: 489-6121

M-Day Safety Officer

CW5 Ethan Bloom

Ethan.j.bloom.mil@army.mil

M-Day Safety NCO

MSG Martin Cozens

martin.h.cozens.mil@army.mil

Safety Specialist

Matthew Williams

matthew.s.williams117.mil@army.mil

COM: 518-786-4329

DSN: 489-4329

Industrial Hygienist

Thomas Phipps

thomas.c.phipps.civ@army.mil

COM: 518-786-4660

DSN: 489-4660

Occupational Health Nurse

Mr. Christopher Gardner

christopher.m.gardner43.civ@army.mil

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