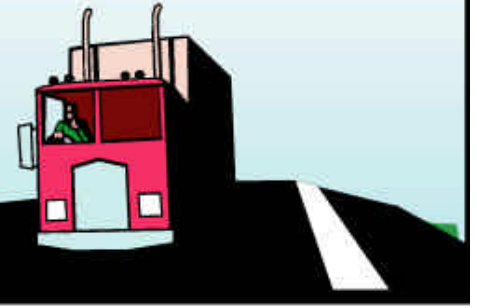


Transportation Safety Topics



Provided by  Gallagher Transportation Services A Division of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Kansas City

School Bus Safety

As the summer of 2004 quickly comes to an end, schools throughout the country will once again be opening their doors for students returning from their brief summer recess.

For 23 million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The National Safety Council states that there are approximately 325,000 school buses operating on any given school day, traveling more than 2,700,000 miles annually. Unfortunately, each year many youngsters are injured or killed in accidents while being transported in school bus vehicles.

What tragedy could be worse for a parent than to lose a young child in a school bus accident? What tragedy could be worse for a trucking professional than to be involved in such an accident? There are steps that can be taken by the professional driver to minimize the potential for this type of loss.

One of the things we can do as trucking professionals is to **recognize and obey the rules of the road**. When approaching a school bus, be extra cautious. Look for the vehicle's signals and **be prepared to stop safely**. Remember that in most states, and in most circumstances, it is unlawful to pass a stopped school bus that is either loading or unloading students. Additionally, most buses are required to stop at railroad crossings, so be prepared. Always **maintain a "cushion of safety"** to avoid rear-ending a school transportation vehicle.

If you must travel through a school zone to complete your delivery, **obey the restricted speed limits** and always **yield to school vehicles**, clearly giving them the right-of-way. When following a bus that is making frequent stops, don't take a chance with an unsafe pass. If you must pass, make sure that you can perform the maneuver safely, and that you are in an authorized passing zone.

As professional drivers, we must **use common sense, be courteous and stay within the law**. Think "**caution**" anytime you observe a school transportation vehicle. Consider the precious cargo being transported.

In addition to being a safe trucking professional, there is more that you can do to prevent school bus accidents. As many of you are parents or grandparents, train your children/grandchildren to behave properly when traveling on a school bus. They should walk to their seat and stay seated until the school bus reaches its destination. Teach these young people to be extra cautious when getting off the bus, looking both ways prior to crossing the road, and to walk far enough from the front of the bus for the bus driver to properly observe them.



At times the trucking industry will take the position that some accidents are inevitable. Yet when the cargo is as valuable as that carried by our school buses, nothing less than a total safety effort is a must.

Let's give our children a safe and happy school year.

Article by Rich Moldstad, Loss Control Consultant
Gallagher Transportation Services
A Division of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Kansas City
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