



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard C. Boyle
Commissioner of Public Safety

Colonel Edward J. Lynch
Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Connecticut Motorists are Reminded of School Zone Safety

In many of the communities in the State of Connecticut, most of our children have successfully started the 2004-2005 school year. The Connecticut State Police would like to remind all parents and guardians to discuss safety issues with their children. Parents should remind children about traffic, pedestrian, and personal safety related topics.

Connecticut drivers are also reminded to be aware of "Back to School" pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Operators are also urged to use extra caution as they travel on Connecticut's roadways and be alert to children who may be hurrying to and from school. It is mandatory that a vehicle must stop for school buses that have flashing red warning lights, whether they are approaching or following the school bus. Failure to obey this law puts our children at great risk and carries a penalty for motorists, with fines starting at \$450.00 for your first offense. More often than not, children, who are injured in accidents involving school buses, receive their injuries as they are entering or exiting the bus. The Connecticut State Police are reminding parents to discuss with their children the following school bus safety tips:

- Children should have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic and the street. Avoid roughhousing at bus stops.
- Children should stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals the student to enter.
- When being dropped off, children should exit the bus and walk ten steps ahead of the bus before crossing in front. The driver can see children best, the farther back from the bus.
- Students should always use handrails when entering and exiting the bus.
- Children should never approach a bus until the driver gives a signal that it is OK to approach.
- Children should be aware of traffic in the roadways around them, before they approach a bus. Drivers are required to stop for school buses, however, not all do. They should always look both ways!

Stay Alert and Drive Carefully

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TFC Karen O'Connor

Sgt. J. Paul Vance
Tfc. William Tate
Tfc. Donna Tadiello
Sonya Efanayi

1111 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 2794
Middletown, CT 06457-9294

Tel: (860)685-8230/Fax: (860)685-8301
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