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## SAFETY BULLETIN



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Register Now for the 2016 Idealease / NPTC Safety Seminar

Idealease and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2016. The one day seminar this year will focus on the new Electronic Logging Device (ELD) regulation, basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. In addition, this year attendees will receive the mandatory two hour

### Back to School Safety!

*Pedestrian-vehicle injuries are a leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 14. Kids are back from summer camp, school will be in session again soon and school buses will be out on the streets.*

That means drivers need to step up safety around school zones, crosswalks, bus stops and wherever children may be playing outside. Here are some back-to-school tips:

1. Be familiar with school zones. Get in the habit of noticing where school zones and crosswalks are on routes that you normally take. Accidents, including pedestrian accidents, are far more likely to occur locally on routes with which drivers are more familiar and comfortable.
2. Stop for school bus lights. Always stop for school buses with flashing red lights. Drivers approaching the bus must come to a full stop for the duration that the red lights are on. Some school buses have flashing yellow lights also, which means that drivers may proceed with extreme caution. Bus drivers often engage the flashing yellow lights before the flashing red lights, signaling that they are about to stop.
3. Obey crossing guards. School crossing guards are given police training and the same authority as local traffic police in most areas, so disobeying a crossing guard could get you in some serious trouble. Remember that driving on major streets where crossing guards and crosswalks are observed is safer than taking "short-cut" side streets where children may be unattended.
4. Anticipate the worst. The speed and distance away of oncoming cars is more difficult for young children to judge. Always anticipate the chance that a small child may run in front of you by slowing down and preparing to brake.
5. Be careful around parked vehicles. Be especially careful in areas with parked vehicles on the side of the road. Children waiting to cross may be especially difficult to see behind parked sport-utility vehicles.
6. Turn your headlights on. Drive with headlights on in areas with children and pedestrians. The AAA says that the use of headlights can reduce pedestrian accidents by about 25 percent.
7. Avoid using cell phones when driving. Cell phones are a known distraction. Never use hand-held cell phones while driving, and never use hands-free cell phones while driving in school zones or areas with children. The same goes for activities that distract the driver, such as changing CDs, looking at notes and reading maps.
8. Avoid reversing. Try to avoid reversing your vehicle in areas with children. It's more difficult to see short children and attend to your car's blind spots while

Drug and Alcohol supervisor training as part of the seminar. The seminars and will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals.

[Click Here](#) to register

## 2016 Idealease Safety Seminar Schedule:

September 20	Lafayette, IN
September 21	Santa Fe Springs, CA
September 22	Santa Barbara, CA
October 4	Green Bay, WI
October 4	Erie, PA
October 5	Butler, PA
October 5	Columbia, SC
October 6	Cleveland, OH
October 12	Chicago, IL

reversing.

9. Don't speed. Remember that the speed limit in most school zones during school times or when children are present is 25 miles per hour. Bad weather, or areas with limited visibility, will require a lower speed. Your visibility to pedestrians, your ability to see them and your stopping distance all may be greatly impaired by weather or road conditions so follow common sense and slow down.
10. Don't honk at pedestrians or bicyclists. Honking at a child, whether on foot or on a bicycle, is generally not a good idea. The noise could possibly cause the startled child to trip or fall and be in a dangerous position for other approaching traffic.

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## School Buses and Laws

Even if you don't have kids in school, it's not hard to see the increase in school buses around this time. Laws vary by state, but usually you have to stop if a school bus is loading or unloading—no matter what side of the street it's on. Passing a school bus while its red lights are flashing is illegal in every state. Watch for school buses stopping at railroad tracks. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the local laws regarding school buses. In their guide, "Reducing Illegal Passing of School Buses," the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that many school buses are illegally passed about once a day. Some buses are even passed on the right (the side children use).



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## Operation Safe Driver Week is Oct. 16-22

On August 3, 2016, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued a safety advisory to owners and operators of



commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) regarding incidents relating to the use of battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) that include explosions, serious personal injuries, and fires.

The explosions regularly involved the ejection of a burning battery case or other components from the device which subsequently ignited nearby flammable or combustible materials. Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations do not specifically address the potential safety risks posed by battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices. However, the FMCSA said that motor carriers and drivers should be aware of the risks associated with these devices, and use good judgment in the possession, storage, charging and use of the devices while being near or operating a CMV. The FMCSA also noted to adhere to the smoking prohibitions on, near, or when loading and unloading a motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials in accordance with 49 CFR 177.834(c) and 397.13.



## CVSA's 2016 Brake Safety Week is Sept. 11-17

During the week of Sept. 11-17, 2016, law enforcement agencies across North America will conduct inspections on large trucks and buses to identify out-of-adjustment brakes, and brake-system and anti-lock braking system (ABS) violations as part of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Brake Safety Week, an annual outreach and enforcement campaign designed to improve commercial motor vehicle (CMV) brake safety throughout North America. Brake Safety Week is part of the [Operation Airbrake](#) program sponsored by CVSA in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

## Top 5 Driver Distractions while operating a Motor

## Vehicle

1. Talking on the phone even though it is hands free 55% do it... up 4% over last year.
2. Tie, Listening and looking at GPS instructions 73% do it and talking on a handheld telephone 51% do it up 3% from last year.
3. Texting 36% do it up 3 % from last year.
4. Accessing the internet 29% do it Up 3% from last year.
5. Email 23% do it down 2% from last year.

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