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## SAFETY BULLETIN



## Back to School Safety!

In the next two weeks we will see many students returning back to school after the summer break. 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



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Looking for topics for an upcoming safety meeting, safety topics to share on social media or to start a weekly safety program at your location?

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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 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
11. approaching traffic.

Feel free to share these Safety Tips with your children or children you know:



## 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



## Navigating Safety and Compliance in 2018

Idealease and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2018. The one day seminar this year will focus on the new Electronic Logging Device (ELD) regulation, basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. The seminars 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. To register for an upcoming seminar in 2018, [Click Here](#).



Fall Seminars  
(Sept-Nov)

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).

## ATRI Updates Its Crash Predictor Model

The likelihood of a future crash can be quantified statistically using a truck driver's behaviors, according to the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) Crash Predictor Model.

ATRI recently released the third edition of its analysis. The study:

- Uses two years' worth of data from over 435,000 U.S. truck drivers, and
- Identifies nearly a dozen behaviors that increase the likelihood of a future truck crash by more than 50 percent.

Age and gender were included as variables to consider when examining crash probability.

In addition, a related topic - crash costs - was included in this latest report. ATRI examined average crash costs across six distinct crash types and severity for the trucking industry.

## Key Findings

Highlights from ATRI's Crash Predictor Model Update include:



- **Top two behaviors for predicting future crash involvement.** Reckless driving and failure to yield right of way each increased the likelihood of a future crash more than 100 percent.
- **Prior crash involvement.** A

commercial driver who was in a previous crash is more likely to have a future accident. ATRI reports a prior accident increases the likelihood of a future crash by 74 percent.

- **Female commercial drivers.** ATRI's study found women truck drivers were safer than male counterparts in every statistically significant safety behavior. Men were 20 percent more likely to be involved in a crash than women.
- **Emerging trends.** All three ATRI Crash Predictor Models (2005, 2011, and 2018) have shown the following convictions increase the likelihood of a future crash:
  - Improper lane/location, Reckless/careless/inattentive/negligent driving, and
  - Improper or erratic lane change.

To view the report in its entirety, [Click Here](#).

8/9/2018	Santa Rosa, CA
9/19/18	Fort Wayne, IN
9/25/2018	Dallas, TX
9/26/2018	Houston, TX
10/4/2018	Moncton, NB
10/10/2018	Nashville, TN
10/16/18	Kansas City, MO
10/24/2018	Modesto/Turlock, CA
10/25/18	Oklahoma City, OK
11/7/2018	San Leandro, CA

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