

JULY 2018



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

It's hard to believe that traditional schools will be starting in less than a month and many year round students have already headed back. Keeping children safe is essential, especially for younger children and those heading to school for the first time.

This RPD Community Newsletter features tips to keep children safe when they head back to school. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

It's that time of year again when summer draws to a close and area schools open their doors for another school year.

By following these safety tips we can help make this back to school season a happy and safe experience for everyone.

- Plan a safe route for your children to take to school and walk it with your child so you will know that they are comfortable with it. Also plan an alternate route in case it should become necessary.
- Avoid planning the route too close to parks, vacant lots, fields, and places where there are not many people around.
- Be sure that your children know their address, phone number, and a work number for Mom or Dad. Also be sure the child knows how and when to use 911. Know parents full names (not Mommy, Daddy, etc.)
- If your child will be home alone after school, make sure that they call you or a designated contact person as soon as they arrive home. Also make sure the child knows not to use the stove or any other appliance that could cause injury.
- Make sure your children are comfortable talking to you about anything that makes them feel uneasy or uncomfortable while away from home such as persons acting suspicious on their way to and from school or if they feel bullied by other children.
- And as always, when driving, pay very close attention to children who may not be paying attention to you. Also obey speed limits in school zones, never text while in a school zone, and stop for loading and unloading school buses.



Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

REMEMBER STOPPED SCHOOL BUS RULES

It is back to school time here in North Carolina. Anxious children are out early in the morning waiting on their buses, and are eager to get home in the afternoon to report about their day at school. While everyone learned the rules when they received their drivers' licenses about when to stop for a school bus, a refresher is always a good idea. You want to make sure you stop when it's required because not stopping could lead to a serious accident with devastating consequences.



BOTH DIRECTIONS OF TRAFFIC MUST STOP FOR A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS:

1. On a two lane road
2. On a two lane road with a center turn lane; and
3. On a four lane road without a median.

ONLY TRAFFIC FOLLOWING THE BUS STOPS:

1. Divided highway with four lanes or more with median separation; and
2. Roadway of four lanes or more with center turning lane.

To summarize, if you are on a two lane road and a bus has blinking red lights and the stop sign out, STOP. It doesn't matter what side of traffic you are on, you have to stop. If you are on a four lane road, and you are behind the bus, you have to stop regardless of whether there is a median or turn lane when the bus puts on the flashing lights and puts out the stop sign. However, you only stop on a four lane road in the opposite direction of the bus if there is no median or turn lane.

To learn more about school bus safety and rules, you can visit the [North Carolina School Bus Safety Website](http://www.ncdot.gov/schoolbus).

BECOME A CITY OF RALEIGH CROSSING GUARD

The Raleigh Police Department uses part-time civilian employees to serve as School Crossing Guards. They provide a safe environment for students at selected street crossings and schools throughout the city.

- Assist students in crossing streets
- Monitor vehicle traffic in the area (ensure there are no speeders or dangerous activity)
- Provide adult oversight while children are walking to and from school or waiting for a ride.
- Crossing guards are assigned at locations near schools where school aged pedestrians need supervision and assistance to safely cross public streets.
- Things that are considered when determining the needs for a crossing guard are: safety of the children, traffic flow, and whether children are walking to school or a bus stop.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT RALEIGHNC.GOV