



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

CITIZEN REMINDER - AUGUST IS BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH



August is designated as Back-to-School Safety Month, and the OCPD in conjunction with other state and local groups remind motorists to be extra careful at all times. With summer ending and the start of school just around the corner, motorists should do their part to keep children safe as they walk and bike to school.

Ocean City will see a dramatic increase in school bus traffic beginning August 30, 2010. Citizens need to remember that pick-up times vary, however, as a general rule morning pick-ups are from 7 to 8 a.m. and afternoon drop-off is from 2:45 to 4 p.m. There is also a mid-day pick-up of pre-kindergarten from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. While on Coastal Highway, motorists traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop for school buses with flashing red lights while they are engaged in pick-up and drop off.

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving. Remember that October 1 Maryland joins other states making it illegal to hold a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle.

Reminder for your children:

- Stay out of the street while waiting for the bus.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.
- BE SAFE, BE SEEN. Look the driver in the eye to be sure you are seen.
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them
- Remember, the best thing you can do as a parent is to always set a good example.
- Remain seated at all times while the bus is moving. Keep aisles clear – stow school bags under the seat.
- Do not shout, yell or sing – it distracts the driver.

The OCPD will have additional police patrols in the areas where school busses pick-up and drop-off students and will be strictly enforcing all traffic safety laws.

Let's take good care of our precious children and do everything we can to keep them safe!

August 18, 2010

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@oceancitymd.gov
For additional public safety information, go to the Official OCPD Blog at: <http://ocpdmdinfo.blogspot.com> or view real-time public safety advisories on "Twitter" by searching OCPDMDInfo.