



Graham Fire & Rescue

SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Being aware and involved makes a big difference in protecting your children from school-related injuries. Since most of us can't be with our kids throughout the school day, it's important that you advocate for safer practices and teach your child how to protect him- or herself.

Eliminate potential hazards:

- ✓ Check playgrounds where your children play. Look for age-appropriate equipment and hazards such as rusted or broken equipment and dangerous surfaces. Report any hazards to the school or municipality.
- ✓ Remove hood and neck drawstrings from all children's outerwear to avoid strangulation hazards on playgrounds.
- ✓ Make sure children remove bike helmets before using any playground equipment.
- ✓ If your child is involved in a sports program, talk to the coordinator or coach to make sure the following are included: proper physical and psychological conditioning, appropriate safety equipment, a safe playing environment, adequate adult supervision, enforcement of safety rules, and an emergency medical plan.
- ✓ Carry with you an emergency kit that includes any special medications or supplies that your child may need.
- ✓ Hyperactive children should not play in overly crowded parks or playgrounds, as they are more likely to collide with other children or incur head injuries.
- ✓ Make sure children playing sports are appropriately grouped according to skill level, weight and physical maturity, especially for contact sports.

Teach kids safety:

- ✓ Teach children proper playground behavior: no pushing, shoving or crowding. Tell them what equipment is appropriate for their age levels.
- ✓ Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street and avoid horseplay, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars, and avoid the driver's blind spot.

- ✓ Remind your children to stay seated at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding.
- ✓ When exiting the bus, children should remember to wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls, and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.

School Bus Law

With schools back in session, school busses are on the road again. Make sure you obey the laws pertaining to school busses, for safety's sake.

Flashing amber lights indicate that a bus is about to stop to load or unload children. Be cautious and slow down as the bus is going to stop in the road.

Flashing red lights indicate that the bus is in the process of loading or unloading and vehicles must do the following:

You must stop if:

- ✓ You are on a two-lane roadway (one lane in each direction).
- ✓ You are on a multiple lane roadway (three or more lanes) and you are traveling in the same direction as the bus.
- ✓ You do not need to stop if:
 - ✓ You are on a multiple lane roadway (three or more lanes) and you are traveling in the opposite direction from the bus.
 - ✓ The bus pulls completely off the roadway and only has their amber lights flashing.