

Spotlight on Health and Safety

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TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Children are our most precious resource and by following basic transportation safety and reinforcing positive safety habits we can help to keep children safe throughout the school year.

“School buses are simply the safest way to transport children to school.”¹ The design of the school bus is governed by several federal regulations and by Canadian Standards Association standard D250. Of all Alberta collisions, those involving school buses account for less than 0.5%.² Our goal each day is to transport all students safely to and from school. Our bus drivers continually participate in on and off road training and perform mock bus evacuations with students. All our school buses are regularly inspected and maintained, installed with safety equipment such as electronic “No Child Left Behind” devices, GSP systems, and some even have cameras to monitor inside and outside of the vehicle.

If your family chooses bicycling as a means of transportation, respect the rules of the road and make sure equipment is properly maintained. Always ensure you can be seen and heard, ride defensively, and wear a helmet.

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable users of the road and children are at even greater risk due to their small size, inability to judge distance and speeds, and lack of experience with traffic rules. Remember it’s always safest to walk on a sidewalk and if one is not available walk on the shoulder facing traffic. Cross the street at a designated crosswalk or intersection.

Students, staff, parents and guardians are all responsible to know the rules at their particular school such as designated parking, and when and where dropping off children is acceptable. Pay special attention to school speed zones, no parking zones, emergency lanes and crosswalks and always stop for school buses displaying the flashing red lights and the extended stop arm.

Whether your children are walking, riding the school bus, being driven or riding a bicycle, let’s keep a safety conscious attitude and get to and from school and work safely together.

¹ Transport Canada

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/motorvehiclesafety/tp-tp2436-rs200407-menu-130.htm>

² Opus Hamilton Consultants Ltd. (August 7, 2008) Review of School Bus Collisions in Alberta - Final Report. Retrieved from

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/content/doctype45/production/reviewalbertaschoolbuscollisionsfinal.pdf>