

# DEFENSIVE DRIVING

## **FOCUS**

The formula for defensive driving is see the hazard, understand the defense and act in time. All drivers must apply this formula to prevent accidents in spite of the actions of other drivers or the presence of adverse driving conditions. A defensive driver must be able to accurately predict the outcome of traffic situations in order to apply the defense in time to prevent an accident.

## **ANTICIPATE**

- **See the hazard**—Think about what may happen as far ahead of reaching a situation as possible. Never assume that a condition will have passed before you approach it. What are some of the hazardous conditions that you should look for? You need to think about your defense.
- **Understand the defense**—There are specific ways to handle most situations. We should review these situations in our mind so we can act quickly—in time to prevent an accident. Give yourself plenty of time.
- **In an emergency situation, we should not panic.** We must stay calm and apply the best defensive action. We must understand the defense.
- **Act in time**—Once we see the hazard and decide upon a defense we must act immediately. Never assume that the condition will clear up. The sooner you act the more time you will have to avoid an accident.
- **Defensive driving does not come easy.** We must constantly improve our skills of observation and coordination. We must go over situations in our minds and plan our defenses. Seeing the hazard, knowing the defense and acting in time will keep us all in the game.

## **CORRECT**

So, what tools do we have to become good DEFENSIVE DRIVERS?  
SMITH SYSTEM 5 KEYS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>AIM HIGH IN STEERING®</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>GET THE BIG PICTURE®</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes lead the vehicle properly.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Following distance appropriate for conditions. 8 SECOND MIN                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sees and evaluates relevant information from among distant objects. | <input type="checkbox"/> Make and execute decisions early.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjusts eye lead distance to speed.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid being unnecessarily boxed in.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep vehicle rolling by adjusting for conditions.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Speed is neither too fast nor too slow for conditions.                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes properly elevated around turns and corners.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Uses knowledge to make driving smoother and more economical.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®</b>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scan mirrors frequently.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain proper space around the vehicle.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scan major and minor intersections before entry.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust space to avoid unsafe intrusion by other drivers.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Move eyes at least every two seconds.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> When stopped, leave appropriate space in front of vehicle.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check mirrors prior to slowing or stopping the vehicle.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently select lanes to minimize danger and maximize space & visibility. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid staring while evaluating relevant objects                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep up to date with current size and shape of space cushion.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®</b>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>FOLLOW COMPANY POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seek eye contact and communicate when conditions suggest the need.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow cell phone and electronic device policy                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Effectively time use of the turn indicators.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid unnecessary U-Turns on public roads                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate speed and communications when changing lanes.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow company speed policy   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brake early to activate brake lights.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wear seatbelt when on public roads  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Position vehicle to promote seeing and being seen                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid distractions while driving  |

## **TALK**

- **Share with others your experience using the 5 Keys to avoid an accident.**
- **Discuss near misses with your manager.**
- **Use this check list-What are you doing to stay safe and accident free!!!**

## School Bus Safety

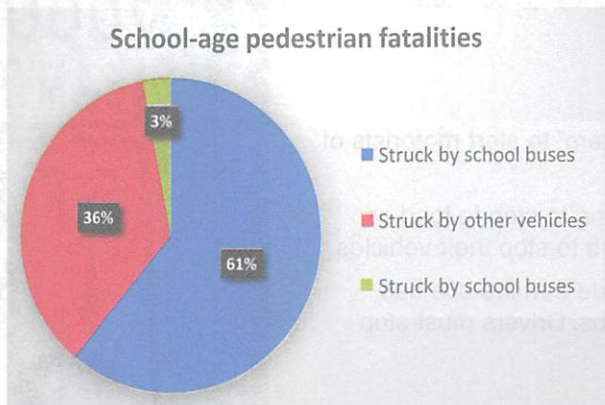
### Understanding the hazards

Over the next several weeks, millions of children will be starting a new school year. As kids head back to the classroom, it is important to understand the hazards you may face when sharing the road with children and school buses.

### Facts and figures

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2006 to 2015, 102 school-age pedestrians (18-years old and younger) died in school-transportation-related crashes.

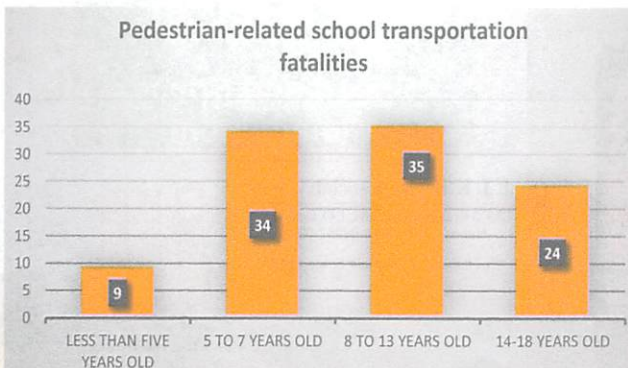
One in every three school-age pedestrians involved in a fatal school-transportation-related crash were struck by other vehicles (cars, light trucks and vans, large trucks, motorcycles).



Our youngest students (ages five-years old to seven-years old) accounted for one in every three pedestrian-related fatalities. Students between eight-years old and 13-years old accounted for another third of pedestrian-related fatalities.

There are several factors that cause younger children to be at greater risk when it comes to pedestrian-related fatalities. Younger children:

- Are smaller and harder to see, as your view of them may be blocked by the school bus or other vehicles,
- Can be impulsive and may cross a road or street without warning,

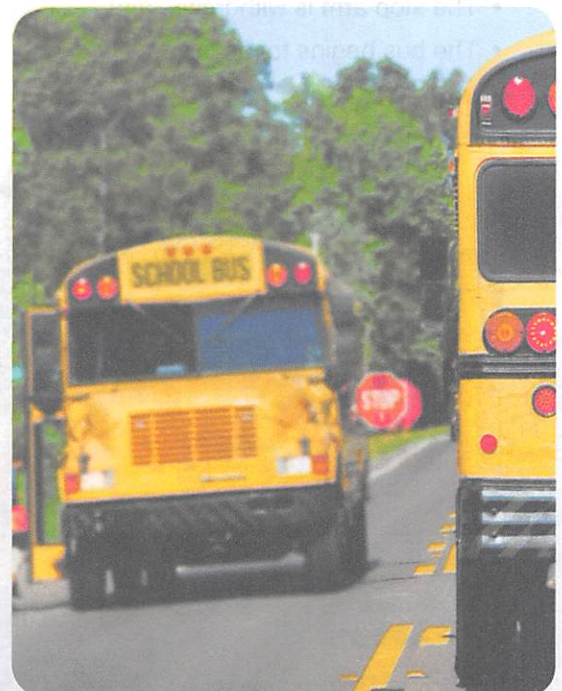


- Can't judge a vehicle's speed,
- Don't fully understand the dangers posed by moving vehicles, and
- May expect vehicles to stop for them when their school bus stops.

### Drive defensively

The best way to prevent a fatal crash is by being alert, paying extra attention, and following defensive driving practices when driving in a school zone or approaching a bus stop. This includes:

- Continually scanning the road,
- Paying extra attention in school zones,
- Reducing speed as necessary,
- Watching for children gathering near bus stops,
- Watching for children walking in the road,
- Never passing a school bus on the right side,
- Never passing a school bus when its lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended, and
- **Always** expecting the unexpected.







## School bus laws

All states have laws in place to protect children as they board and exit school buses. Though specifics vary from state-to-state, there are standard rules that apply everywhere.

- Never pass a school bus when its lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended. This means children are boarding or exiting the bus.
- Never pass a school bus on the right side. This is where children enter and exit the bus.
- In many states, school bus drivers can report illegally passing vehicles. The illegal action does not need to be observed by law enforcement for a driver to be cited.

## Use caution in a school zone

A school zone is a section of roadway near a school or school crosswalk where signs provide notice that a school is nearby and children may be present.

In a school zone, the posted speed limit is greatly reduced. This provides drivers more time to react to unexpected actions by children within the school zone.

When driving through a school zone and in the area surrounding a school, your undivided attention needs to be on the road, looking out for potential hazards.

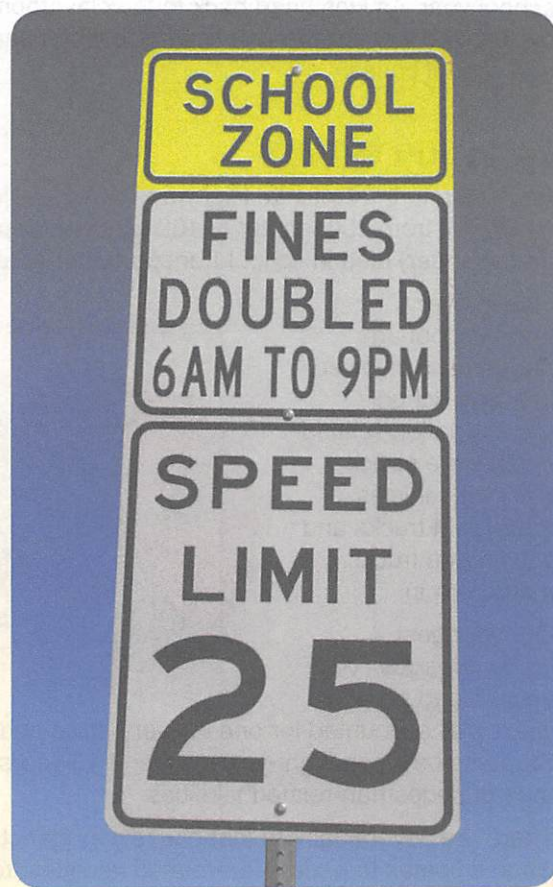
## What is the flashing light system?

School bus drivers use the “flashing signal light system” to alert motorists of pending actions.

Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off the bus. Drivers must stop and wait until:

- The red lights stop flashing,
- The stop arm is withdrawn, and
- The bus begins to move.



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