



Back to School Safety Tips

With the back-to-school season in full swing, the Phoenix Fire Department wants to help keep your kids safe. Below is a list of safety tips for before and after school:

- Be sure your children memorize all important phone numbers, and know how to use 911.
- Plan a route to school with your children that are direct with few street crossings, and utilizes crossing guards.
- Teach children to obey all traffic signals, signs, traffic officers and safety patrols.
- Make sure your children walk to and from school with others.
- Teach your child never to accept rides, gifts or even talk to strangers.
- Establish rules for keeping doors and windows locked and answering the door.
- Make sure your children check in with you or a neighbor immediately after they get home from school.
- Agree on rules for inviting friends over and for going to a friend's house after school.

For both children and adults, school bus safety is an extremely important issue that is often overlooked. The following are a few tips to keep your kids safe around buses:

- Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Always stand four giant steps back from the curb
- Never walk behind a bus.
- Always take six giant steps forward before crossing in front of the bus so the driver can see you.
- Always look around you before you get on and off the bus to make sure you don't leave anything behind.
- Never leave loose straps hanging when getting on the bus, because they can get caught on the door or railings.
- Never run and grab dropped items around a bus without telling the driver first.
- Always be aware of your surroundings when getting on or off the bus.

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