

September 15, 2006

Drivers urged to look out for kids who are back in school

Edmonton... Drivers are once again sharing the road with children who are walking, bicycling or riding the bus to school. In the excitement of the first weeks of returning to school and seeing friends, children may forget basic road safety rules. Motorists need to use caution when driving through residential areas and adhere to speed limits in school or playground zones.

Drivers should keep in mind that children have special characteristics that make them more susceptible to pedestrian collisions. Those include less accurate depth perception, difficulty in judging the speed of oncoming vehicles, and a tendency to dart out into the street in pursuit of a friend, pet or toy. Children typically are not taller than a vehicle's hood which makes them harder to see. Also, a child's reaction to danger differs from that of an adult. **For instance**, the approach of a car may prompt a child to run faster across the street instead of staying on the sidewalk as an adult would.

Driving tips to keep children safe:

- Scan farther down the road and obey posted speed limits.
 - Always be prepared to slow down or stop.
 - Avoid loud music and other distractions when driving.
 - Use caution when approaching intersections or mid-block crosswalks. Parked or stopped vehicles may hide a pedestrian who is crossing the road. The fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk is \$575 and four demerit points.
- **Watch for the school safety patrol**, identified by their orange vests, **and stop as directed**. School safety patrollers play a vital role in directing children safely across the street.
- Be very cautious in parking lots or when backing out of a parking stall or driveway.
 - Watch for kids between parked vehicles and on the sidewalk. They may dash out into the street after a friend or a toy.

Speed limit in school and playground zones:

The speed limit in a school zone is 30 km/h unless otherwise posted. A school zone is in effect on school days from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless other times are posted.

The speed limit in a playground zone is 30 km/h unless otherwise posted. A vehicle is not permitted to pass or attempt to pass another vehicle travelling in the same direction from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset in a playground zone.

For information about traffic safety, please contact the Traffic Safety Initiative at (780) 422-8839 or visit www.saferoads.com.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Eileen McDonald
Communications

(780) 422-0842

e-mail: eileen.mcdonald@gov.ab.ca

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government Home](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Infrastructure and Transportation Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#)

Send us your comments or questions

Copyright(c); 2006 Government of Alberta

Return to [Government Home Page](#)