

Buses Safest Transportation for School Children



Some 25 million students nationwide begin and end their day with a trip on a school bus. Designed for safety, with flashing lights, giant mirrors, stop-sign arms and that bright yellow color, students are far more likely to get to school safely when taking a school bus than traveling by car, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

School buses are designed to protect students through compartmentalization – closely spaced seats and high, energy-absorbing seat backs. Seat belts protect students, too.

School buses are the safest way for students to travel. Nearly two-thirds of school bus-related fatalities of school-age children occur outside of the school bus. Children need to do their part to (continued on page 2)

It's Balloon Fiesta Time!

October 5 thru 13 2024



Any local will tell you October is the most beautiful time of year in New Mexico, made so in large part by the much anticipated sight of colorful balloons punctuating the skyline. During this season, the sky is bluer, the days are gentler, and the mornings crisper -- almost as though the landscape has taken a deep sigh -- and on the desert's warm breath sails the annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. For more than half a century, this age-old form of flight, which has captured the human imagination for hundreds of years, is celebrated in a 9-day event that draws the devout, the curious and the novice balloonists to the world-famous Balloon Fiesta Park

It's a sight to see – but not from your vehicles while driving down the road. Now is the time to remind you employees the hazards this event exposes our workers to:

1. Traffic is going to increase considerably.
2. Drivers on the road who are not familiar with our streets.
3. Driver distractions when the balloons are in the air.
4. Chase teams cutting through traffic trying to keep up with their balloon.
5. Traffic delays.
6. Road rage

Our drivers need to drive defensively:

- Be aware of what's going on around their vehicle at all times.
- Plan their trips so they can get to the job sites on time
- Be patient and control your temper. Drive carefully and keep safety first!

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stay safe both in and around school buses:(continued from page 1)

- Arrive early at the bus stop – at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive
- Stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb while waiting for the bus
- Supervise young children
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before approaching the bus or standing up on the bus
- Use the handrail
- Secure any loose or hanging objects like straps on a backpack or drawstrings on a hood
- Buckle up if seat belts are available
- Stay in your seat keeping head, arms and papers inside the bus, and talk quietly
- Keep aisles clear of books and bags.

Preparing for Overdoses Saves Lives

The number of people dying from a drug overdose is at an all-time high, and the main cause of these deaths is opioids. This crisis reaches employees in all industries and occupations, with workplace overdose deaths increasing by 619% since 2011 and overdoses now causing nearly 9.6% of all worker deaths on the job.

Recent FDA approval of naloxone nasal sprays for over-the-counter use gives your workplace a new lifesaving tool to prevent these deaths. Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily stop many of the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose. Including naloxone in your workplace first aid kit or elsewhere onsite, and training employees to use it, is a critical component of emergency response to help save a life. The Respond Ready Workplace program helps employers to address overdose deaths at work by supporting access to naloxone as well as providing related training and resources.

Obtaining naloxone for your workplace and training your employees to use it will give every member of your workforce the skills and resources they need to save a life at work and in the community. Be Respond Ready with options for training your employees and obtaining naloxone for your workplace.

Respond Ready Workplace is Naloxone for Opioid Overdose

Substance Abuse-How Employers Can Make a Difference

Health care costs for employees who have a substance use disorder are almost double the costs of an average employee with no SUD. The annual cost of an untreated SUD ranges from an average of \$8,255 to \$14,000 per employee, depending on their industry and role.

Employers can take simple steps to protect themselves and their employees, such as:

- Recognizing the impact of drug misuse on the bottom line
- Educating and engaging their workforce on the topic of opioids
- Enacting clear and strong company drug-free workplace policies, and ensuring consistent and comprehensive communication with employees
- Expanding drug panel testing to include opioids
- Training supervisors and employees to spot the first signs of drug misuse and impairment
- Treating substance use disorders as a medical condition that can and should be treated, and ensuring evidence-based treatment mechanisms are covered by employer health care plans
- Leveraging employee assistance programs and other similar resources to help employees return to work, and supporting employees in recovery

Did You Know?

October is Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention Month. Hearing loss is among the most common work-related illnesses. Workers are faced with occupational noise hazards every day. Fortunately, with today's hearing loss prevention strategies and technologies, work-related hearing loss can be nearly always prevented.

Safety Tip of the Month

Report hazardous conditions or equipment to your supervisor.

Notes From the Editor

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