

# BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

As summer winds down and the days get shorter, we're gearing up for the fall to arrive and kids getting back to class.

This is a busy and exciting time not just for families, but for everyone out there on the road—especially those of us driving to and from work. Now is a great time to remember to stay focussed and alert, and drive with extra care and caution.

With kids heading back to school, school zones, crosswalks, school buses and bus stops become high-risk areas. So know the increased risks and help keep the roads safe.

## WHAT DRIVERS NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- School Zones
- Children on the Road
- School Buses
- Increased Traffic
- Change in Weather



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

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## SCHOOL ZONES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS:

- Watch for school zone signs and reduce your speed as you approach these areas - especially at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Be aware of increased traffic in your neighbourhood and expect more cars parked on residential streets. Use caution when entering or leaving driveways or turning onto busy streets.

## CHILDREN ON THE ROAD:

- Kids—especially younger ones—may be walking to school or to bus stops without supervision. They can be unpredictable and may not be aware or understand traffic dangers. It's our responsibility to stay alert and be ready for kids darting into the road.
- Watch for kids riding their bikes to and from school. Some may not know traffic laws or could swerve unexpectedly. Give them space and be patient.
- Kids may also be dropped off by rushed parents in uncontrolled areas and may sometimes block traffic, creating unexpected hazards. Stay patient and drive defensively.

## SCHOOL BUSES:

- Respect school buses when driving. They're carrying precious cargo.
- Always stop when a school bus is picking up or dropping off children.
- Never pass a bus with its stop sign extended and lights flashing - kids may be crossing the road.

## CHANGES IN WEATHER:

- As fall approaches, prepare for changes in the weather by adjusting your driving style and inspecting your vehicle.
- Check your tires for proper inflation and tread to help prevent hydroplaning on wet roads.
- Make sure your wipers are working well for rainy days.
- Use headlights in foggy conditions.
- Start thinking about winterizing your vehicle before the cold sets in.

## HEAVIER TRAFFIC:

- September mornings are busy—leave early to avoid stress and the urge to rush. Arriving safely is what matters most.

### REMEMBER:

**Watch for children—walking, biking or riding the bus. Slow down, stay alert, and expect the unexpected. We all have a role to play in keeping kids safe to and from school.**

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