

School Crisis Planning: The Parent Factor

Kids in Transit

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS DOING

Parents should become familiar with the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children. It is important for children to follow school bus safety rules to help ensure the bus driver delivers them safely to and from their destination. The safety tips below for parents, are also being used by your child's bus driver.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

Prepare a Vehicle Emergency Action Plan

Although many people take a few extra precautions at home in order to be prepared for emergencies, many fail to consider getting their vehicles prepared for potential emergencies. Yet, many people spend over an hour of their time each day in their vehicles. What would you do if you encountered severe weather or another emergency situation while on the road? If you carry a basic emergency kit of supplies with you, you will be certain to be better prepared for these potential situations.

Assemble a Vehicle Safety Kit Containing:

- 🧰 First Aid Kit
- 🧰 Blanket
- 🧰 Flare
- 🧰 Flashlight (Don't forget batteries)
- 🧰 Gloves
- 🧰 Poncho
- 🧰 Rags
- 🧰 Snack foods
- 🧰 Snow scraper and brush
- 🧰 Water
- 🧰 Tool kit
- 🧰 Window washer fluid
- 🧰 Jumper cables
- 🧰 Two quarts of oil
- 🧰 Antifreeze

While it may be tough to give up the trunk space for these emergency items, it will be space well used when you enjoy the peace of mind of knowing you will be prepared if an emergency strikes.

Steps for Keeping Kids Safe Inside of Vehicles

When driving in your vehicle, there are a number of steps you can take to keep children safe. Michigan law requires the following:

- 🧰 Passengers 8-15 years old to buckle up in all seating positions
- 🧰 Drivers and front seat passengers be buckled up
- 🧰 Children younger than age 4 need to ride in a car seat in the rear seat, if vehicle has a rear seat. If all available seats are occupied by children under 4, then a child under 4 may ride in a car seat in the front seat. A child in a rear-facing car seat may only ride in the front seat **if the airbag is turned off.**
- 🧰 Children younger than age 8, or shorter than 4 feet 9 inches must be properly buckled in a car seat or booster seat.
- 🧰 Avoid sudden braking and swerving, as this can jerk a small child around and cause injuries.

Cell Phone Use and Texting While Driving

*****Share this information with your teen*****

- 🧰 Effective July 1, 2010 it is against the law in Michigan to text while driving, even when stopped (at a light/sign, etc)
- 🧰 Avoid use of cell phone while driving. Turn it off or wait until you can safely pull off the road and stop.

Actions for Your Family

- 🧰 Teach children how and when to call 911.
- 🧰 Learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid.
- 🧰 Keep an emergency supply kit in the trunk of your car.

Additional Resources Can Be Found At:

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

FEMA: www.fema.gov

Do 1 Thing: www.do1thing.org