



VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

Release Immediately

Press Release #: 11P-059

Release Date: 08/12/11

Case #: N/A

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Plainfield Police plan extra enforcement in conjunction with children going back to school on August 18th

Plainfield IL – With the start of the new school year beginning August 18th, both drivers and pedestrians need to remain aware of their surroundings since the start of the school year brings an increase in the amount of pedestrians in or near the roadways.

Drivers should take every precaution when traveling in residential, urban, and school areas where pedestrians may cross the street or walk along the roadway. Pedestrians, especially children, may dart out into traffic from unexpected places like between parked cars. Always be prepared to take evasive action, monitor your speed, and show that you care by setting a good example.

Parents need to reiterate to their children some basic safe tips for walking. The National Safe Kids Campaign recommends the following tips for children:

- Do not cross the street alone if you're younger than ten years old
- Stop at the curb before crossing the street
- Walk, do not run, across the street
- Cross at corners, using traffic signals, crossing guards, and crosswalks
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing
- Walk facing traffic
- Make sure drivers see you before crossing in front of them
- Do not play in driveways, streets, or parking lots
- Wear white clothing or reflectors when walking at night
- Cross at least ten feet in front of a school bus

In addition, The Plainfield Police Department takes a zero tolerance approach to vehicles speeding within 20 MPH school zones. If drivers exceed the posted 20 MPH school zone speed limit, they can expect to be stopped and cited. A citation for speeding in a school zone brings with it a mandatory court appearance, a conviction against your driving record, and minimum fines and costs of \$285.00.

Motorists need to stay vigilant and obey the law when approaching a school bus stopped to load or unload children. Drivers approaching a stopped school bus that has its stop arm extended and red lights flashing are required to stop, and remain stopped until the bus driver retracts the stop arm and turns off the red flashing lights.



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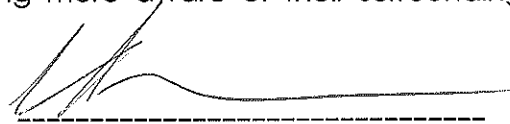
Receiving a ticket for failing to stop for a school bus stopped to load or unload children can result in a three month suspension of the violators driving privileges. Additionally, if the owner of the vehicle is not driving the vehicle at the time of the violation, the owner is required to identify the driver or face the suspension of the vehicle's registration.

Because our children are precious and their safety is paramount, the Plainfield Police Department will aggressively enforce this statute, and the prosecutor will seek convictions in these cases.

Also, please be reminded that the "Vehicular Phone Use in School Zones" ban took effect on January 1st, 2010, which states "A person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone". The ban carries a fine and can adversely impact your driving record. The ban is intended to reduce accidents in the school zones and increase the driver's vigilance. The desired end is safe driving without using a cell phone to dial, redial and talk or otherwise take the driver's mind and eyes away from the road.

With both pedestrians and drivers being more aware of their surroundings, we can all enjoy the new school year without incident.

AUTHORITY:



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cc: All Police Employees WESCOM Press Board