



News Release

It's National School Bus Safety Week!

October 19-23, 2009

October 19, 2009 – Burlington, ON – Today marks the beginning of National School Bus Safety Week, with this year's theme of "avoid harm, obey the stop arm."

More than 800,000 students are transported by school bus daily in Ontario. In Halton, approximately 28,000 students are transported on 416 bus routes every day.

Research conducted by *Transport Canada* shows that travel by school bus is one of the safest methods of transportation, but injuries can happen. Most injuries occur outside the bus, as students are boarding and leaving the bus or crossing the street.

Service de transport des élèves de Halton/Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) reminds motorists that whether on a city street, highway or county road, and regardless of the speed limit and the number of lanes, motorists travelling in both directions must stop when approaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing. The flashing stop arm swings out while passengers are boarding or leaving the bus. Once all passengers have boarded, the stop arm will fold away. Motorists should not start moving until the red lights have stopped flashing and the bus begins to move. The only exception would be on roadways that are separated by a median. Traffic coming from the opposite direction is not required to stop.

Fines for motorists who do not obey this law range from \$400 - \$2,000, for the first offence, and from \$1,000 - \$4,000, six demerit points and possible jail time for any subsequent infractions.

For more information and what to do if you see a vehicle pass a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing, visit: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/topics.htm#schoolbuses>

Let's all work together to help the students transported by HSTS arrive safely at their destination.

For more information please contact:

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