

October Transportation Safety Newsletter: School Bus Safety

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Oregon Department
of Transportation

Transportation Safety

October 2024

School Bus Safety



Statistically, school buses are the safest way to transport school children. Yet more injuries and fatalities occur outside of or near a school bus because a motorist has failed to obey the stop-arm warning or to follow local traffic laws.

Flashing amber lights warn traffic that the bus is about to stop on the road to load or unload children. Prepare to stop. When the red lights flash, stop before reaching the bus and remain stopped until the driver turns off the flashing red lights.

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Our Best

In Oregon, we know the weather can change day to day – especially this time of year. And when we're behind the wheel, we do our best to keep everyone safe in all conditions. We stay alert, avoid distractions, and take it slow, so we can all get there safely.

[Watch Video](#)



Cheers to Halloween's Designated Drivers!

Oregonians, leave the scares to haunted houses, spooky music, and frightening movies! Don't turn those into real-life dangers by drinking and driving. Call a sober friend, rideshare, or use public transportation to get home safely. *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.*



Teen Driver Safety Week – October 20-26

Your teen looks up to you more than you think. Make safe choices while you're driving and set a good example for them when you're behind the wheel—avoid driving distracted, and drive the speed limit, drive sober, and always wear a seat belt.

Parenting teens can be a challenge. While there are some battles that just aren't worth fighting, protecting them behind the wheel is worth the fight. Verify that they know and understand the rules before handing over the keys. Familiarize yourself with [graduated driver licensing \(GDL\) restrictions and enforce state laws](#) with your teen.



White Cane Safety Day

White Cane Safety Day is October 15, recognizing the remarkable achievements and independence of the visually impaired. It's also a good reminder for every day: always look out for pedestrians with white canes and be patient so they can get home safely.

In Oregon law, you must give the right of way to a pedestrian with limited vision or any pedestrian who is blind or deaf and



blind carrying a white cane or using a guide dog. Stop if the person is about to cross or is crossing the road. Remain stopped until the person has crossed the entire road, even if you have a green light.

[Toolkit](#)

Rules of the Road – Left Turns

When it comes to making left-hand turns, have you ever wondered the difference between a solid green arrow, flashing yellow arrow, or a solid green ball? As a driver it's important to know the difference.

A solid green arrow is a protected left turn- giving you the right-of-way to turn left without having to stop for other oncoming traffic.

A flashing yellow arrow or green ball is a permissive left turn where motorists must first yield the right-of-way to both oncoming traffic, people riding bicycles, and any people in a crosswalk, waiting for a safe gap in traffic before making a left turn.

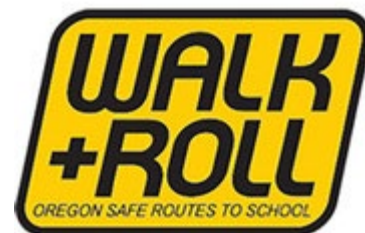
Whenever turning left at an intersection, a friendly Oregon driver will always look for people walking and rolling in the crosswalks that the driver is crossing over.



[Watch Video](#)

Walk+Roll to School Day

International Walk+Roll to School Day is on October 9! Walk+Roll to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and rolling to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event, and over time, it has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school. We encourage schools to have students walk+roll for the whole month of October to encourage healthy habits that will continue all year long.



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