

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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State Troopers Urge Motorists to Watch Out for School Buses, *Encourage Extra Caution in School Zones*

MONTGOMERY — As students return to schools throughout the state, Alabama state troopers encourage motorists to watch out for school buses and to be particularly cautious when traveling through school zones, according to Col. W.M. Coppage, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

Coppage said the beginning of the school year brings changes in traffic patterns and heightens the need for traffic safety, especially in school zones and around school buses. “There’s increased congestion in school zones, including pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and that requires increased caution on the part of all motorists,” said Coppage.

“We ask that all Alabamians do their part to ensure the safety of our children as they travel to and from school each day,” he said.

Coppage reminded motorists that state law requires vehicles to stop when meeting or following a school bus that is stopped to receive or discharge passengers, even if the opposing traffic is separated by a median or safety zone. “Traffic must stop for buses as children get on and off, and motorists may not proceed until the bus has retracted its stop signal and turned off its flashing red lights,” he said.

Last year in Alabama one person was killed and 134 persons injured in crashes involving school buses; 336 drivers were convicted of passing a stopped school bus.

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