



Title: **Practice safe driving habits**
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LETTERS

Practice safe driving habits

To the editor:

September is the deadliest month for pedestrians under the age of 18. Forty percent of crashes involving youngsters occur between 3 and 7 p.m., when children make their way home from school and after-school activities.

The Illinois Insurance Association is reminding drivers to practice safe driving habits around schools, school buses and students on foot.

- Never pass a stopped school bus unless you are on the other side of a divided highway.

- Leave at least 10 feet between your car and a school bus stopped ahead of you. Watch for children in the roadway before continuing your trip.

- Follow school zone speed limits.

- Be alert for crossing guards and children who may be distracted or crossing where there is no crosswalk.

- Never block a crosswalk while stopped at a red light or waiting to turn.

- Respect school rules when dropping off or picking up students. Don't double-park. Drop off children on the same side of the street as the school building.

- Watch for children riding bicycles to and from school. Beware when approaching an intersection, preparing to back up and opening your car door.

- Stay off the phone and avoid other distractions behind the wheel, especially in a school zone.

- Teach your school-age children or grandchildren to cross only at crosswalks, obey crossing guards and remain alert – with headphones off and electronic devices put away – while walking or bicycling in high-traffic areas.

Kevin J. Martin

Executive director of the Illinois Insurance Association