



Featuring Evangelist Adrian Despres

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7 AT 9:30AM
SUN & TUESDAY-THURSDAY SEPT. 7 & 9-11 6:30PM
SPECIAL MONDAY, SEPT. 8 SERVICE
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As Students Return to School, Commissioner Causey Reminds All Drivers of the Importance of Bus Safety

Passing a stopped school bus can add heavy points to premiums

This month nearly 1.5 million students will return to classrooms across North Carolina. As bus traffic increases on our roads, Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is reminding everyone to keep safety in mind when walking, driving or riding a bus on their way to school.

While students on traditional calendars will go back to school on August 25, students at year-round schools and some charter schools have already started boarding buses and have headed back to class.

Statistics highlight the need for a call to action. On a typical day, more than 14,100 school buses carrying nearly 800,000 students operate on North Carolina roads. These buses travel over 181 million miles each year.

According to the National Safety Council, there were 128 school bus-related deaths in 2023, the latest year statistics are available. Most school bus-related fatalities were not drivers or occupants on the bus: Nine were passengers, while two were drivers. Most – 87 – were occupants of another vehicle while 24 were pedestrians.

There were also 5,189 charges for speeding in a school zone and 968 charges for failure to stop for a stopped bus.

“We all have a critical role to play in keeping our children safe,” Commissioner Causey said. “Drivers need to be on the lookout for crowded crosswalks and school buses on the road and parents need to talk to their children about the importance of traveling to school safely. It takes all of us working together to help keep accidents down.”

In addition to the safety concerns these charges carry, they also hold repercussions to motorists’ auto insurance premiums. Passing a stopped school bus can result in the motorist adding four insurance points to their policy and potentially doubling their auto insurance premiums.

When driving, if you see a school bus with lights flashing, slow down and prepare to stop.

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.

Commissioner Causey offers these safety tips as students and teachers head back to school:

For pedestrians:

- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street or road, walk facing traffic.
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming. Never dart out in front of a parked car.
- Parents: Practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets or crosswalks when available.
- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone.
- Do not walk while using headphones.

For bike riders:

- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly.
- Children need to know the rules of the road: Ride single file on the right side of the road, come to a complete stop before crossing the street and walk the bike across.
- Watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
- Use hand signals when turning.
- Wear bright-colored clothing.

For bus riders:

- Teach children the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Line up six feet away from the curb as the bus approaches.
- If seat belts are available, buckle up.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before standing.
- If you must cross the road, walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

For motorists, in addition to obeying the stopped school bus law:

- Don’t block crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and take extra precaution in school zones.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Stop far enough back from a school bus to allow children room to safely enter and exit the bus. The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children.

Iredell County Man Bags \$1 Million Prize

Ever since the Emerald 10’s scratch-off game debuted in April, Travis Wilhelm of Statesville believed he would win the \$1 million top prize.

“When that ticket came out, I knew that was my ticket,” he said. “I’ve been playing it ever since.”

Wilhelm’s winning moment occurred when he bought his lucky \$10 Emerald 10’s ticket from Fast Phil’s on Harmony Highway in Harmony. “It was a crazy feeling,” Wilhelm said. He had to look at it over and over to believe his good luck. “I thought it was a misprint,” Wilhelm laughed. “I looked back and forth like 10 different times.”

When Wilhelm arrived at lottery headquarters on Monday, he had a decision to make. He could choose to receive his prize as an annuity of \$50,000 over 20 years or a lump sum of \$600,000. He chose the lump sum of \$600,000 and, after required state and federal tax withholdings, took home \$430,503.

He plans to save his winnings and possibly buy a new car.

The Emerald 10’s game debuted in April with five \$1 million top prizes.

Three \$1 million prizes remain to be claimed.

For details on how \$10.7 million raised by the lottery made a difference for education programs in Anson County last year, visit www.nc lottery.com and click on the “Impact” section.

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UNAUTHORIZED HYDRANT USE



Don’t steal water!

The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Anson County Water Department is a violation of state and federal law.

Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system.

PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY to the

- Anson County Sheriff’s Office 704-694-4188, or the
- Anson County Water Department 704-694-5208.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department. Information is available at 704-694-5208.