



MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Operation Safe Stop – Bus Safety

The week of October 18-22 was Operation Safe Stop, a weeklong campaign aimed at reducing the illegal passing of school buses. This effort to raise public awareness was sponsored by the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP).

As part of an ongoing effort to reduce illegal passing of school buses, the Sheriff's Office participated in the statewide campaign. As part of the operation, the Sheriff's Office conducted 16 hours of high visibility traffic enforcement in school districts around Monroe County, made nine traffic stops, and issued two illegal passing citations.

Sheriff Goodnough is committed to promoting safe driving and encourages all drivers, parents, and children to observe bus safety practices.

If you are driving, remember these simple rules:

- Yellow flashing lights on a school bus mean slow down because the bus is preparing to stop. There are likely students waiting to get on the bus or parents waiting nearby to pick up children.
- Red flashing lights mean stop because children are getting on or off the school bus. Stay stopped until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving.
- Even when lights aren't flashing, watch for children. Be alert as you back out of a driveway, or drive through a neighborhood, school zone or bus stop.

Parents - talk bus safety with your children:

Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Teach them to play it SAFE:

- Stay five steps away from the curb.
- Always wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver signals for you to board.
- Face forward after finding a seat on the bus.
- Exit the bus after it stops and look left-right-left for cars before crossing a street.