**August Safety Focus**

**School season safety**

**Fall is quickly approaching and it is that time of year to be prepared for children and school busses. In many areas School is has already started and will soon be starting everywhere else. We need to remember that we haven’t had to deal with school zones or busses all summer long. Here are some tips taken from the AAA web site.**

 **Slow down. Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.**

**Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding. (AAA)**

**Eliminate distractions. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. And children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example. (AAA)**

**Watch for bicycles. Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride. Find videos, expert advice and safety tips at ShareTheRoad.AAA.com. (AAA)**

**Watch for School Busses. Keep your eyes open for busses. They are Yellow for a reason. Make sure to use extreme caution when they are in traffic. Watch for their flashing yellow and red lights. Yellow lights means the bus driver is about to stop and open the doors when they are Flashing Red the doors are open and children will be getting on or off the bus and may dart out in traffic. Anytime a bus is stopped watch for children they may appear out of nowhere.**

**School Zones. Be mindful of your speed when in a school zone. Pay attention in these areas even if you don’t see any children, they still may be present**. **Children don’t always exercise caution so you have to keep an eye out for them.**

**While this is still a busy time for vacationer’s there are many places where school is in session. Please take the extra time to use extra caution to watch out for Children, They are the future.**