



OPERATION SAFE STOP

Q&A

What is Operation Safe Stop?

- It is a cooperative, One Day, public service project including the joint efforts of the local school district, local police department, and county sheriff's department with support from the New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles, State Police and the Governor's Office.
- It is designed to (1) educate the public on laws about and the dangers of illegally passing Stopped School Buses with Red Lights flashing and Stop Arm extended; and, (2) to increase police presence targeting violators of these laws.

When and Where will this take place?

- On Tuesday, May 1, 2018.
- In twenty plus community school districts in New Hampshire.
Atkinson, Bedford, Berlin, Brookfield, Concord, Chesterfield, Danville, Effingham, Keene, Manchester, Middleton, Milford, Nashua, New Durham, North Hampton, Ossipee, Plaistow, Sandown, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro

When Do I Need To Stop?

- ◆ Alternating, Amber (Yellow), caution lights are activated at least 100 feet in advance of a planned stop to load or unload students warning approaching motorists from either direction. This provides opportunity for motorists to slow down and stop, or when too close to stop, the opportunity to continue past. Motorists should be watching for children who may be waiting for the bus.
- ◆ **You must STOP** no closer than 25 feet from the school bus whenever the alternating RED lights are flashing if:
 - you are on a two-lane roadway (one lane in each direction)
 - you are on a multiple lane roadway (three or more lanes), **even if you are traveling in the opposite direction.** (All lanes of traffic must stop going in both directions!), or
 - you are in a school yard, with NO dedicated loading area. **(RSA 265:54)**
- ◆ The **ONLY** exceptions:
 - "...when meeting or passing a school bus which is traveling in the opposite direction on the other half of the divided highway, or when upon a controlled access highway if a school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is part of, or adjacent to, such highway and pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway." **(RSA 265:54 III)**

What should I do when I see another driver go through the school bus red lights?

- Try to remember the license plate information and a brief description of the vehicle. Sometimes even a partial plate number and state is enough to find them.
- If you can also remember the number of the school bus (not necessarily the plate #), it will also be useful.
- Take note of the location where this happened and the time.
- Notify the local police as soon as practical.

DO NOT!

- Attempt to stop, follow or engage the other driver. This could lead to a serious altercation in which you may be injured or otherwise harmed.