



As summer draws to a close, back-to-school season is in full effect, and so is back to school traffic. As a driver, remember to safely share the roads with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists. This is also a great time to talk with your children about personal safety. Included in this issue of ReadyPA Monthly are tips for you and kids to stay safe and ready to learn this school year.

**Riding in a car to school**

- Pennsylvania’s primary child passenger safety law requires all occupants under the age of 18 to be properly restrained *no matter where they sit in the vehicle*.
- Children are required by law to be rear-facing until the age of two or they reach the height and weight limits as set by the car seat manufacturer.
- Children between ages of two and eight must be secured in an approved child restraint system, whether a forward-facing harness seat or a booster seat (based on height and weight).
- Children between ages of eight and 18 must be restrained by a seat belt system.
- Junior drivers are limited to no more than three non-family passengers until they reach age 18.
- If a teenager is driving to school, alone or with friends, require them to not use their cell phone, avoid eating or drinking while driving, and limit the number of passengers to avoid distractions.
- For more information, visit [www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety](http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety)

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**Riding a bike or walking to school**

- If on a bike, always wear a helmet and ride on the right side of the road in the same direction traffic is moving.
- Only cross the street at an intersection.
- If possible, use a route with crossing guards and/or crosswalks.



**Riding a bus to school**

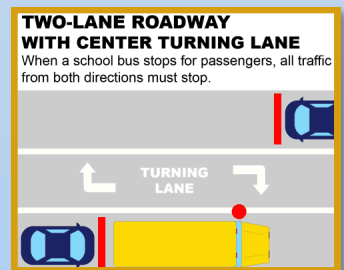
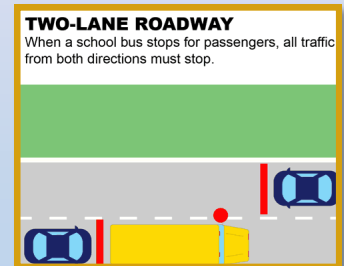
- Tell children they should only board their bus and never an alternate one.
- Be aware — cross with care! Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road. Never dart out into the street, or cross between parked cars.

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY FOR DRIVERS

Yellow school buses picking up students, kids on bikes hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents trying to drop their kids off before work. It sounds like a video game and can feel like that too when getting back into the school year routine. During the school year, it is never more important than ever for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present, especially before and after school.

### PA's Bus Stopping Law

- Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop arm extended.
- Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.
- Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety.
- If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.
- Penalties, if convicted of violating the School Bus Stopping Law, include a \$250 fine; five points on your driving record, and a 60-day license suspension



### Share the road

According to the National Safety Council, ([www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)) most of the children who lose their lives in bus related incidents were either hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus.

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic.
- When flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk or intersection.
- Always stop for a police officer or a crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way.

### Put away your cell phone

- 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.
- Studies show that drivers looking out the windshield can miss seeing 50% of what's around them when talking on a cell phone.



## BACK TO SCHOOL WEATHER SAFETY

As kids head back to school for another year, make sure your family stays safe. Teach your kids what to do when adverse weather hits. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency can make a difference when seconds count. For more information, visit [www.readypa.org](http://www.readypa.org).

### Be informed

Tornados and flash floods are dangerous because they can happen unexpectedly and with limited warning. That is why it is important to know when and how you will receive information about immediate weather warnings in your area that threaten your safety.

- Sign up for weather alerts from a media outlet or [www.AlertPA.gov](http://www.AlertPA.gov).
- NWS alerts are based by county. Knowing your county and town are important when reading these alerts to determine if the weather hazard will impact you.

### Know the terms and to know what to expect

Term	What it means	What you do
Watch	Conditions may support dangerous weather	Be Prepared
Warning	Dangerous weather <i>is occurring</i> or <i>is about to occur</i>	Take Action

A watch allows you time to prepare, but a warning means take action for safety.

### Know what to do

Below are simple phrases to teach your family. Knowing and practicing these phrases will help members avoid panic, know what to do, and take action in the safest way possible.

#### Lightning —“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors”



- In PA, lightning occurs most often in the summer, but it can occur any time of year...even in a snow storm!
- Stay indoors for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

#### Flooding —“Turn Around, Don’t Drown”



- Head to higher ground

#### Tornado—If a tornado is around, get low to the ground.



- Tornadoes have been spotted in every county and in every month of the year.
- Head to the basement, or lowest floor of the house.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.
- Wear a helmet to protect yourself from flying debris.

#### Heat— Beat the heat, stay cool



- Kids can get heat illness faster than adults.
- Drink plenty of water all day, even if you’re not thirsty

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

## What is National Night Out?

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes positive police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

Millions of neighbors take part in NNO across communities from all 50 states, United States territories, Canadian cities, and military installations worldwide on the first Tuesday in August.

## How did NNO start?



Did you know that National Night Out began in Pennsylvania? In 1981, the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a Philadelphia area non profit organization was founded to provide community watch groups the necessary resources and assets to stay informed, interested, involved, and motivated within the community. NATW introduced NNO in August of 1984. The first annual NNO involved 2.5 million neighbors across 400 communities in 23 states; however, the event soon grew to a celebration beyond just front porch vigils.

Neighborhoods across the nation began to host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much more. Today, 38 million neighbors in 16,000 communities across the nation take part in National Night Out.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**National  
Night Out  
2017**

**Tuesday,  
August 1.**

*"...preventing and solving crime is a community effort. National Night Out is an excellent program that helps the department build relationships with neighbors and create safer neighborhoods. This is one of the events we look forward to each year."*

*— Chief George Turner, Atlanta Police Department*

## How do I find out about National Night Out in my community?



Contact your local law enforcement agency. For more information on National Night Out or to register your event for free, visit the NATW website at [www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org).



## LABOR DAY "DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER" CAMPAIGN

Police across Pennsylvania will be participating in the national 2017 Labor Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign August 16 through September 4. Participating agencies will be conducting roving patrols and checkpoints. Efforts will include combatting drug-impaired driving which accounts for about 50 percent of DUI arrests.



Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve impaired drivers and one person is killed every 51 minutes by an impaired driver on our nation's roadways.



Most people think of impaired driving as involving just alcohol or possibly illegal drugs. The fact is that driving under the influence of legal drugs can be just as dangerous as driving under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol. Medications can have side effects that make driving unsafe, such as dizziness, blurred vision and drowsiness. These side effects can be exaggerated when combined with alcohol and cause greater impairment.

To keep yourself and your family and friends safe, designate a sober driver BEFORE you head out to a picnic or other celebration. That driver needs to be the one who has had NOTHING to drink, not the least amount to drink. Never mix alcohol with drugs and consider using Uber or other ride-share opportunities to get home safely.

For more information about impaired driving and traffic safety, visit: [www.penndot.gov/safety](http://www.penndot.gov/safety)





## PEMA is Social!

*Find us, visit us, like us, tweet us, retweet us!*



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ReadyPA>

<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

## PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

*Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!*



[www.ReadyPA.org](http://www.ReadyPA.org)



**pennsylvania**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

### Preparedness Events in August

**National Night Out: August 1<sup>st</sup>**

[www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org)

**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over: August 18<sup>th</sup> - September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

<https://one.nhtsa.gov>

**Back to School Month**

[www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

**National Immunization Awareness Month**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Children's Eye Health & Safety Month**

[www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)

### Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: [www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

ReadyPA: [www.ReadypA.org](http://www.ReadypA.org)

SERVPA: [www.Serv.PA.gov](http://www.Serv.PA.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

National Weather Service: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

PA State Animal Response Team: [www.pasart.us](http://www.pasart.us)

PA511Connect: [www.511pa.com](http://www.511pa.com)

Pennsylvania State Police: [www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office: [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov)

# Are you ReadyPA?

## Kids Weather Safety

### What should you Be Ready for?

#### Pennsylvania has all kinds of weather!

- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Thunderstorms
- Winter Storms

### How can you Be Ready?

#### Before

- Know what a watch and a warning mean for you.

#### During

- **Thunderstorms:** Head indoors and stay off electronics and away from water.
- **Tornadoes:** Head to the basement or the lowest floor. Wear a helmet.
- **Floods:** Head to higher ground.
- **Heat:** Drink lots of water and don't play outside for too long.



### Know Your Alert Terms

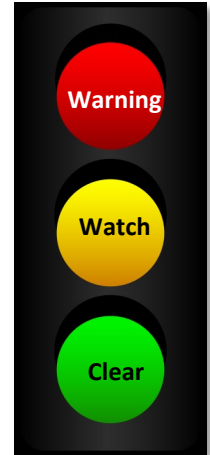
When the weather turns bad, the National Weather Service lets us know with special phrases. Do you know the difference?

**Watch:** There is a chance for dangerous weather. Time to prepare!

**Warning:** Dangerous weather is occurring or will occur in your area . Take action!

Watch and warning messages sent from the National Weather Service are based on weather in your county. What county do you live in?

Write your county name here



### When dangerous weather arrives, take action!

The action you take differs based on the dangerous weather that arrives. Draw a line from the dangerous weather (on the left) to how you should take action (on the right).



Lightning

"Beat the heat, stay cool"



Flooding

"If a tornado is around, get low to the ground"



Tornado

"When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors"  
"See a flash, dash inside"



Heat

"Turn Around, Don't Drown"