

Monthly Traffic Safety Updates from Utah NETS

A Utah Safety Council Program

Back to School Safety Month

August is National Back to School Safety Month. In Utah, schools will be back in session starting the last week of July throughout the month of August.

As parents, business owners, and everyday commuters we need to be more vigilant during this time and remember to share the road- whether it be with school buses, pedestrians, or bicyclists. School days bring congestion and we need to plan ahead for changing conditions.

In Utah, there are a few things we need to remember when it comes to school bus safety:

- When approaching a school bus with amber warning lights, we need to **slow our vehicle down and proceed with caution** (always looking for kids darting around).
- When we see a school bus with red flashing lights, we **must stop immediately** prior to reaching the bus and not proceed until the lights cease.
- When in school zones and flashers are blinking, **stop and yield to pedestrians crossing in a crosswalk or intersection**. This may include school crossing guards, parents, kids, and other pedestrians in and around crosswalks and intersections.



In Utah, we have seen an increase in motor vehicle crash deaths in 2015. Of those 275 deaths, 48 of them were pedestrians. According to the Utah Department of Transportation, most of these deaths took place in crosswalks and intersections. These deaths can be prevented by slowing down, staying focused, and planning ahead during a commute.