

# Safety Corner

## Back to School Safety: "Out of Harm's Way"

Since many children will be going back-to-school after the Labor Day Weekend, the Lincoln County Safety Committee wanted to take this opportunity to discuss a very serious problem many of our children face daily on their way to school: "Dangerous Road Crossings." Tragically, studies have found that school-age pedestrians are the group at greatest risk of being involved in an accident." As parents, there are steps we can take to make sure our children and **all** children, arrive and return safely from school.

You can help protect your children from the most frequent kinds of school-related injuries by following these practical, proven tips.

- **Parents** - Teach your children to look left, then right, then left again before EVER crossing a street, even if they have the right of way. Don't assume that because you have taught your children these rules that they will always remember to follow them. Insist on adult supervision at crosswalks. Make sure your kids Wear a bicycle helmet when biking or riding a scooter to and from school. Make sure your child's bicycle helmet has a label stating it meets CPSC's mandatory safety standard. Wearing a bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85%.
- **Drivers** - Before turning into a crosswalk, look **very** carefully for pedestrians, especially during school hours.
- **Children** - This is hard, but kids need to learn to look and make sure that drivers see them BEFORE they enter an intersection. Children have a tendency to dart into an intersection once they have the "ok" sign to walk. This can lead to tragedy.

So as we pack our K-12 kids up and get them ready for another school year, we need to be constantly thinking about their safety. This applies both to their travel to and from school and their safety while on school grounds. Parent drivers must remain watchful. Children dart unexpectedly into traffic, often from between parked cars. And young pedestrians face a variety of dangers while walking to and from school.



## Safety Committee Members

- Vic White, Chairman
- Robin Benson, Vice Chair
- Brenda Rebo, Record Keeper
- Ken Boyd, Training Officer
- Roby Bowe
- Kelley Brown
- Amy Smart
- Sami Pierson
- Dennis Day
- Karmen McKinney
- Lisa Oedewaldt
- Terry Steiger
- Gregg Baney

## Monthly Departmental Safety Meetings

Please remember, monthly departmental safety meetings must be documented and attendance rosters turned into Brenda Rebo. Attendance rosters should be turned in at the conclusion of each monthly safety meeting. The county will continue to conduct quarterly dinner gift certificate drawings for employees of departments who have 100% attendance at their monthly safety meetings. Employees attending all 12 departmental safety meetings shall be eligible for a safety incentive award at the end of the year.

## Lincoln County Safety Committee Mission Statement

To develop, put into practice, and maintain the Lincoln County Injury and Illness Prevention Program which promotes safety awareness and safe work practices for all county departments and employees and that is in compliance with all federal, state, and county requirements in order to reduce and prevent accidents, injuries, and illnesses of employees.

**Safety**  
IS JOB ONE