

LEADER'S GUIDE

How to prevent Danger Zone accidents



Making Kids Safer™

You will need:

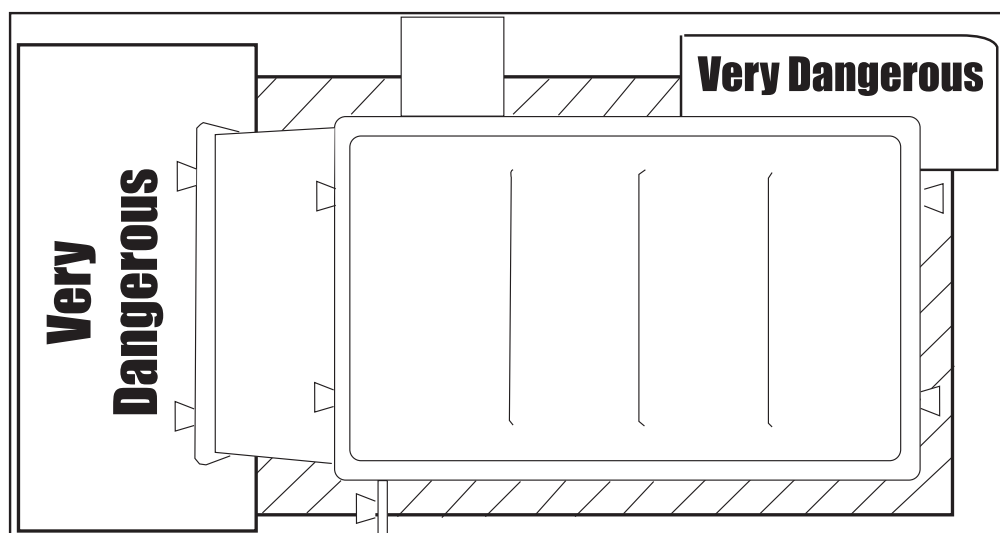
- "Danger Zones" DVD which has 8 sections:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 6. RECOVERING FROM DISTRACTIONS |
| 2. UNDERSTANDING DANGER ZONES | 7. CLOSING |
| 3. WHY CHILDREN ENTER DANGER ZONES | 8. FINAL EXAM |
| 4. PREVENTING DANGER ZONES ACCIDENTS | |
| 5. CHECKING THE DANGER ZONES | Before you start, give each driver a copy of the handout for drivers. |

Items in bold are for you to read out loud to the group.

Before starting the DVD, say this to the group:

Danger zones are the areas around your bus where pedestrian accidents are most likely to happen. You have to be particularly vigilant about these areas when loading or unloading the bus and before moving whenever you've been stopped around pedestrians, children or adults. It's your responsibility to protect your danger zones. In this course, you'll learn where the danger zones are and tips for making sure no children enter them.

One of the most important steps you can take is to clearly tell the students about the danger zones at the start of the year and then reinforce these points throughout the year. The points you should make are:





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1. Tell the students that all areas close to the bus are danger zones and they are NEVER to go into these zones, except when loading and unloading. Instruct the students to wait away from the curb and not to approach the bus until it comes to a complete stop and you open the door.
2. Make sure students understand that when they wait for the bus, they should stay at least 10 feet away from where they board the bus.
3. Tell the students that there should be NO horseplay, pushing, shoving or running when the bus is arriving, waiting or leaving.
4. Say this to the students: "NEVER, repeat NEVER pick up anything you drop near the wheels, under the bus or in front of the bus. Tell me, your driver and I will instruct you what to do, or I will pick the object, paper or money up for you." This is very important.
5. Say this to the students: "NEVER run after the bus, this is very dangerous. NEVER bang on the side of the bus. If you are late, go home. Do not run after the bus. If I, the driver see you running after the bus, I will stop, but you will NOT be allowed to board the bus – you will be sent home."

There have been many fatalities caused by students who run after the bus and fall under the wheels or get hit by a car as they run across the street. Make sure the children understand that there is no point because they will not be allowed to board anyway.

Caveat

Sometimes when we take action to prevent an unsafe act (running after the bus), we create new problems. If the student has no one at home or another reason, we cannot refuse to transport them, the driver should allow them on the bus. However, everyone should recognize that running after a moving bus is an extremely unsafe act and appropriate action must be taken. Principals and parents should be informed and the student must be made aware that they are NEVER to do this again. It is too late to take action after a student is killed.

6. Instruct children to walk ten feet straight away from the bus when they exit, then they can turn in the direction they wish to go.
7. Instruct children who cross the street to walk ten steps ahead of the bus, before they turn to cross.
8. Give children the "okay" signal when it is safe to cross (and enforce its use). Students should still look left and right themselves.
9. Tell the students to look for and remove strings hanging off of jackets and backpacks. Ask parents to remove them.

All these points are detailed in the driver's handout, so drivers can use it for reference.



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Start the "Danger Zones" DVD. Start by clicking on "INTRODUCTION."

When the INTRODUCTION is over, click on the Continue button. At the Main Menu, click on "UNDERSTANDING DANGER ZONES." At the end, the DVD will stop for a discussion.

Ask the group these questions:

What are the three danger zones and what makes them particularly dangerous?

Answer: In front of the bus, the passenger side, and the rear of the bus, including the left rear wheels. They are dangerous because you may not be able to see kids in these areas from your driver's seat.

What are the three things you can do to prevent danger zone accidents?

Answer: Count the kids away, know where they are, and clear your mirrors before you move.

Click on the Continue button to get back to the Main Menu. Click on "WHY CHILDREN ENTER DANGER ZONES."

The DVD will stop for a discussion. Discuss with the group some ways you could prevent children from entering danger zones.

Ask the group:

Why do students get into the Danger Zones?

- Dropping something and trying to retrieve it
- Taking a shortcut close to the front of the bus
- Trying to cut between parked buses
- Running after the bus, hitting the side, (when late)
- Interacting with kids still on the bus
- Hanging onto the back of the bus to "hitch a ride"
- Walking away from bus, then coming back (VERY DANGEROUS)

Click on the Continue button to keep watching. The DVD will stop for a discussion.

Discuss with the group:

Discuss some ways you could prevent children from entering danger zones.

Also, discuss with the group that many students have been killed from running after the bus and falling under the rear wheels or being hit by another vehicle. What can they do to prevent students running after the bus?

Click on the Continue button to keep watching.

The DVD will stop for a few questions. Read the questions out loud and ask for participants to volunteer their answers. Click on the Continue button to get to the next question.



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Never move the bus until you are sure the danger zones are clear - even if that means getting out of the bus to check.

- a. True*
- b. False

Parking the busses _____ helps prevent children from entering a danger zones.

- a. side to side
- b. perpendicular to each other
- c. bumper-to-bumper*

The three steps you should use to keep children safe from danger zone accidents are:

- a. count the kids away, close the door and honk your horn before you move.
- b. close the door, honk the horn and give the kids the "okay" signal before you move.
- c. count the kids away, know where they are and clear your mirrors immediately before you move.*

Before you go back to the DVD, ask this question to the group:

You also just heard a list of ways to limit the possibility of children accidentally entering Danger Zones. What were some of those ways? Can you think of any others?

Answers:

1. Begin school year with candid discussion about Danger Zones
2. Have them walk 10 big steps ahead of bus before crossing
3. Give O.K. signal when it is safe to cross (enforce this)
4. Never tolerate horseplay in or around stairwell
5. Never allow students to run after the bus.
6. Watch for strings hanging off clothing and book bags
7. Walk 10 feet away from bus (straight out from the door)
8. Watch the direction the children go when leaving the bus
9. Count the kids getting off, and count again when they are away
10. Have kids wait away from curb until bus stops and door opens
11. Walk, not run, to bus when boarding
12. No pushing or shoving
13. Instruct children to be seated. Do not move bus until they are and that they remain seated
14. Park bumper to bumper in school yard to leave no room for students to enter Danger Zones, or the street

Click on the Continue button. At the Main Menu, click on "PREVENTING DANGER ZONE ACCIDENTS."

The DVD will stop for three questions for you to read to the group. Ask for volunteers to give answers. Click on the Continue button to get to the next question.



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You should be especially careful when:

- a. there appears to be horseplay, pushing or shoving.***
- b. all of the children are in the same place.**
- c. the children are waiting for the bus in an orderly fashion.**

Check your mirrors, looking for cars that may try to pass you from behind and also look for:

- a. construction workers.**
- b. parked cars.**
- c. oncoming traffic.***

After you have brought the bus to a complete stop, activated the warning lights, stop arm and crossing gate:

- a. open the door.**
- b. check your mirrors for traffic BEFORE you open the door.***
- c. check your mirrors for traffic AFTER you open the door.**

Click on the Continue button. At the Main Menu, click on "CHECKING THE DANGER ZONES."

The DVD will stop for a discussion.

How do you avoid danger zone accidents when children are leaving the bus?

Ask the group this question:

What's the first thing you have to think about as you pull up to a stop?

Continue until all steps are covered.

Click on the Continue button to get back to the Main Menu. Click on "RECOVERING FROM DISTRACTIONS."

After RECOVERING FROM DISTRACTIONS, click on the Continue button to get back to the Main Menu. Click on "CLOSING."

After the CLOSING there are two slides for the Program Summary. Have someone in the class to read them aloud. When you are finished, click on the Continue button and at the Main Menu, click on the FINAL EXAM. Read each question and ask for volunteers to give answers. Encourage the participants to take notes and ask any questions they may have on Danger Zones.



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Read each question and ask for volunteers to give answers. Encourage the participants to take notes and ask any questions they may have on Danger Zones.

Notes: _____

Q1: Children should walk ___ big steps ahead of the bus before turning to cross.

- a) 5
- b) 10***
- c) 15

Q2: _____ the kids as they leave the bus and again as they walk away from the bus.

- a) Greet
- b) Count***
- c) Signal

Q3: Knowing _____ is one way to avoid danger zone accidents.

- a) which children cross the street***
- b) how many children are on the route
- c) the children's names

Q4: This is an example of an indirect way you can prevent children from entering the danger zone.

- a) Having a discussion with your passengers at the beginning of the school year.
- b) Counting the kids as they cross the street.
- c) Watch for strings hanging off of jackets and backpacks.***

Q5: As you approach a pickup area, you should:

- a) scan the entire area and take note of where the children are.***
- b) scan the entire area directly in front of and behind the bus.
- c) look straight ahead.



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Before you leave, say this to the group:

- 1. It's important to check your Danger Zones, not just at bus stops; but anytime you're stopped around pedestrians, children or adults, and any time your bus is stopped for a prolonged period of time.**
- 2. The underside of your bus is an appealing place for a child to explore or hide. If your bus has been turned off or idling for an extended period of time, get out and do a walk around to check the underneath of the bus before you move the bus. When you do a walk around always turn left when you get off and go counterclockwise around the bus.**
- 3. You're aware that a bus can be very dangerous, but sometimes children get comfortable with it and don't think about safety. It's your job to think about it for them. Remind the children of the safe steps to use when they get on and off the bus. Don't tolerate horseplay on the bus or at the stop.**
- 4. Keep the students out of the danger zones at all times. Know where all the students are before you move the bus –count each child and know their location. If you don't know where a child is, get out of the bus and check. Do not assume that just because you can't see them, they have moved. Assume they're in a danger zone and check. The life of a child is worth the small effort to make absolutely sure.**
- 5. When a student is late they may do a very dangerous practice - running after the bus. Tell the students to be at the stop 5 minutes before the bus is supposed to come. If they are late, tell them they are NEVER to run after the bus, they should return home. They are NEVER to bang on the side of the bus, EVER.**

If a student is late and they run after the bus, your goal should be to not to transport them. If you see them running, stop the bus. Refuse to transport them and send them home. This way they will understand there is no point to run after the bus. If you cannot send them home, you must make sure the principal and the parents are informed. The child must be told how unsafe it is to run after the bus and that they should never to do it again.

By rushing and running, the child is at risk of being hit by a car as they cross a street, or from slipping under the rear wheels of the bus. Make sure all students understand they must never to do this. If they do, it is very serious and they will not be transported. If you have to transport them, make sure make sure the principal and the parents are informed and appropriate action taken.

WHAT FOUR STEPS CAN SAVE LIVES?

- 1. CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS AT THE START OF YEAR AND THROUGHOUT**
- 2. COUNT EACH CHILD**
- 3. KNOW WHERE THEY ARE**
- 4. CLEAR YOUR MIRRORS BEFORE YOU MOVE**