

Getting off the Bus

If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side of the road where the child will be dropped off. Do not wait on the other side of the street. Children can be excited to see you and forget the safety rules.

Remind your children that they are never to go behind the bus when getting off of it.

Who is all on board with these new rules?

The Fort McMurray Catholic School Board, the Fort McMurray Public School Board and Sparksman Transportation Company were consulted prior to the bylaw amendment being approved and all parties supported the use of flashing red lights and stop arms for the Urban Service Area.

What is the fine for breaking the rules of the bylaw?

The fine for non-compliance is \$500 per incident, which incorporates the fee schedule of the Traffic Safety Act.

Where can I find more information about the use of school bus flashing red lights and stop arms?

For more information and the full parameters and definitions of the Roads and Transportation Bylaw, please visit www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca.

Special thanks to Sparksman Transportation, the Fort McMurray Catholic Board of Education and the Fort McMurray Public School District for their assistance and cooperation.



Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding School Bus Flashing Red Lights and Stop Arms

As of August 16, 2010, an amendment to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Roads and Transportation Bylaw will allow for school buses to display flashing red lights and utilize stop arms in Fort McMurray.

What is the purpose of the school bus flashing red lights and stop arms amendment?

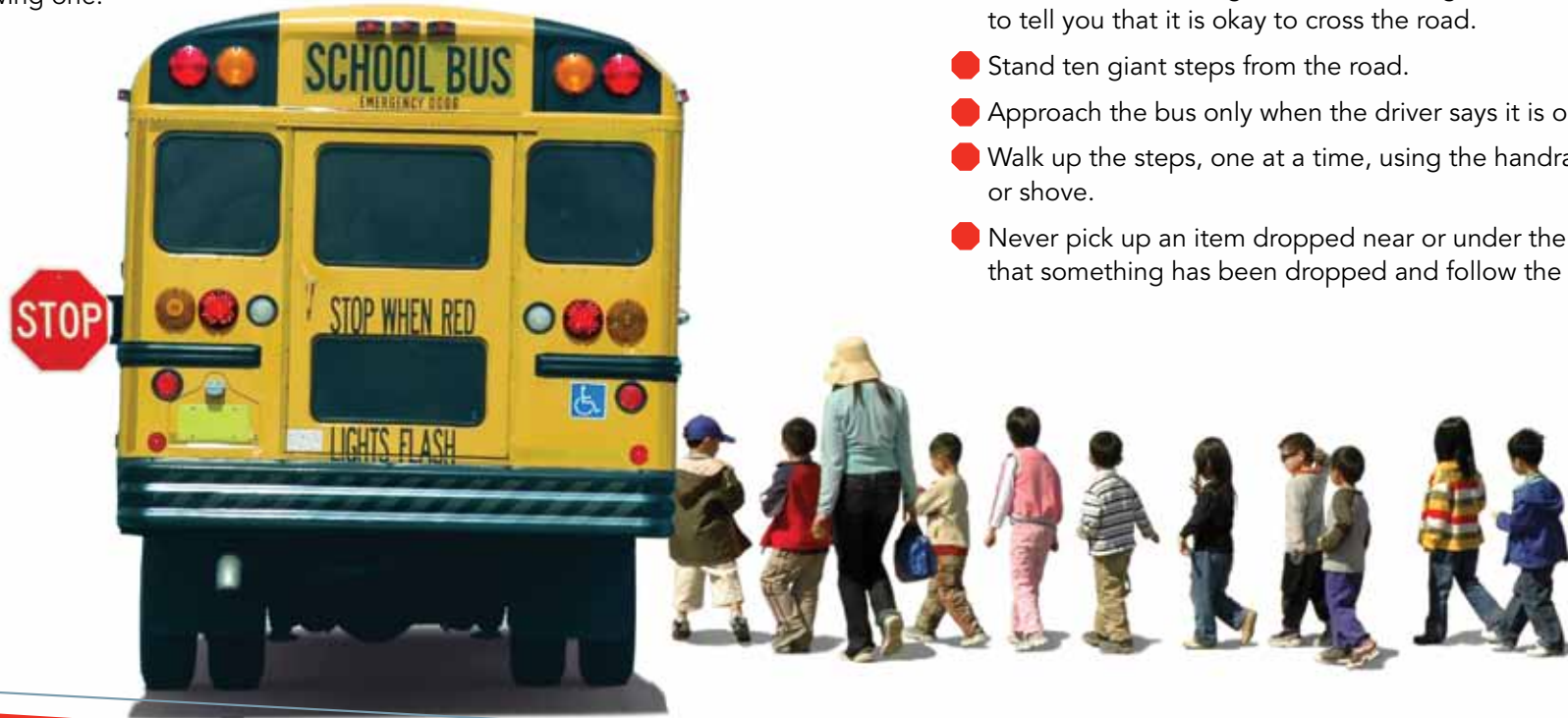
This amendment to the Roads and Transportation Bylaw will create a safer community for school children, bus drivers and motorists alike. Children will be able to safely cross streets and roadways within the Urban Service Area when boarding and departing school buses.

What is a stop arm?

A stop arm is the extended arm on the driver's side of a school bus that has a traditional stop sign placed on the end of it.

What should I do when driving near a school bus?

Slow down and stop when the school bus activates the flashing red lights. This means you must stop whether you are approaching an oncoming bus or following one.



What is a safe distance from stopped school buses?

Stop 20 metres (65 feet) behind the bus when following one or the same distance when in front of the bus traveling in the opposite direction.

Once I've stopped behind a school bus, when is it safe to proceed forward?

It is only safe to resume driving once all children have safely crossed an intersection or roadway. The school bus must also have pulled in its stop arm, shut off its flashing lights and resumed driving.

What can I tell my children to prepare them for these new rules?

Boarding the Bus

- Walk on the sidewalk.
- Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the school bus arrives.
- Never run after the school bus to try and catch it if children miss the bus.
- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching to get on.
- When crossing from the other side of the road, the stop arm on the bus will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch for the driver's hand signal to tell you that it is okay to cross the road.
- Stand ten giant steps from the road.
- Approach the bus only when the driver says it is okay to do so.
- Walk up the steps, one at a time, using the handrail. Never run, push or shove.
- Never pick up an item dropped near or under the bus. Inform the driver that something has been dropped and follow the driver's instructions.