



Safety & Environmental Newsletter

August 2018 Issue – 81st Edition

Back to School



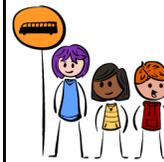
As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, drivers should keep in mind the following safety reminders. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.



Pedestrians



- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Stop and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks or intersections.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- 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.



- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, they tend to ignore hazards and take risks.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus.

- Plan to allow more time for your travel if your route follows a bus route where you will be required to stop.
- Watch out for inexperienced teen drivers, they struggle judging gaps in traffic, driving the right speed for conditions & turning safely, among other things.



Bikes



- When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist.
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass.

- If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signal.
- Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially have a tendency to do this.
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars.
- Check side mirrors before opening your door.

Buses and Cars

- If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing.
- It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. Don't pass from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road



- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.





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Keep FOG out of the Drain



Even with hot water, Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) do not completely dissolve as they flow down the drain. Instead they accumulate on the inside of drain pipes, narrowing the pipes, until a blockage or backup occurs.

A blockage could just be a nuisance in your kitchen sink or a more serious threat to the environment if grease and sewage erupt from a sanitary sewer manhole along the sidewalk or road.

To prevent sanitary sewer overflows, follow these simple tips:

- ◆ Never pour grease down the drain.
- ◆ Always use a paper towel to wipe out greasy pans before washing pans in the sink. Dispose of the paper towel in the trash can.
- ◆ Recycle or reuse grease by collecting grease and oil in closed containers.

For more information or to request a FOG poster for your kitchen, contact Owen Hooks at extension 1941.

What Would You Do If You Saw This Puddle of Oil?



A puddle of oil or a sheen on a roadway or parking lot could be a result of a leaking piece of equipment or vehicle. However, even a small puddle has the potential to

impact local waters if washed into a storm drain during a rain event.

If you see a puddle of oil or sheen, here's what you can do:

- ◆ First, call the Wallops Fire Department at 911 or 757-824-1333.
- ◆ Then, if you have spill materials in your work area and it is safe to do so, place sorbent booms around any nearby storm drains.



Breathe Easy: The WFF Air Program

Step outside your workspace and take a deep breath. The quality of that air you just inhaled is protected by the Clean Air Act. The WFF Environmental Office's Air Program ensures compliance with the Clean Air Act by tracking various pollutants and substances which could impact air quality at WFF. The program tracks the types and number of equipment and processes that emit pollutants into the air. These include:

- ◆ generators and fire pumps;
- ◆ boilers and water heaters;
- ◆ paint booths and lab hoods;
- ◆ grit-blasting operations;
- ◆ soldering and welding;
- ◆ rocket motor testing and disposal; and
- ◆ ozone-depleting substance (solvents and coolants) use.

If you are responsible for designing systems, procuring equipment and supplies, or operating or maintaining any item on the list above, we want to hear from you whenever you make a change to your equipment (new, replaced, or removed) or procedures (new substances, more/less time per operation, or more/less materials used). Your input is crucial to the Air Program's ability to track potential pollutant emissions and, ultimately, the quality of the air you breathe at work.

Please discuss changes with Tom Gleave at extension 2435.