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“School Buses and Our Children”

The Thibodaux Police Department would like to share a safety concern with the citizens of the City Of Thibodaux since school is scheduled to let back in next Friday (August 8, 2008). Drivers should be aware and adhere to laws that pertain to school buses when they are in full control of a traffic lane, when receiving and discharging children. “Our children are precious to us.” Why take the chance of possibly injuring a child by neglecting to follow the law, Revised Statute 32:80 “Overtaking and Passing School Buses”. The law states that the driver of a vehicle meeting a school bus shall stop their vehicle not less than thirty feet from the school bus before reaching the school bus when there are visual signals in operation. The driver of a vehicle shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the visual signals are no longer activated.

*Remember, it is our responsibly as drivers to do our part in making sure our children remain safe when traveling to and from school. **Patience, Responsibility, Courtesy and Adherence of the law** are a must when a driver meets a school bus.*

“SAFETY TIPS FOR OUR KIDS”

The Thibodaux Police Department would like to pass on some very important safety tips regarding children and strangers since many children walk alone to and from the bus stop and school.

***Strangers!** - Parents, how often do you speak to your children about coming into contact with a stranger? Remember, it is like teaching them to tie their shoes or ride a bike. Unless you discuss and practice stranger safety with them often, they might not*

remember what to do when they come into contact with a stranger. Here are some safety tips you can practice with them.

1) Teach them that if an unfamiliar person approaches them, they should quickly walk away and tell someone they know.

2) Remind them that strangers will try to trick them in going with them.

Ex) Offer them candy – Help me look for my lost puppy

3) If by chance a stranger attempts to grab them, teach your kids to kick, swing their arms, and scream for help as loud as they can. This will attract attention to them and someone will come to help or call the police.

4) That when they get separated from their parents they should look for a policeman or someone they know and trust.

5) Help your kids learn their phone number and address. It's never too early and if they are ever separated from you that little information can become the link in helping them return home safely.

Also, parents did you know that there is a site on the internet that lets you check your local area for registered sex offenders. By visiting, www.12.familywatchdog.us and entering your address, it will show a map of your area. Each dot on the map, if any represents a registered sex offender. When you click on these dots, a photo will appear along with a list of their offenses.

“Remember, it's never too early or too late to teach your kids stranger safety”

**** Remember you can contact the Thibodaux Police Department at (985) 446-5021 to report any suspicious person(s) or activity while remaining anonymous****

****END****

Lieutenant Sam Pruitt

News releases can also be found on our website at www.ci.thibodaux.la.us