



The City of Tallahassee and The Tallahassee Fire Department Present:



The Newsladder

Back to School Safety: The School Bus and Drivers

Now that the children are back in school they should be reminded about school bus safety.

According to the American Red Cross, 25 million students ride on school buses. Children riding a bus to school should follow these safety tips to help prevent injury.

- Line up facing the school bus door--not along the side of the school bus.
- Don't play in the street while waiting for the school bus.
- Never reach under a school bus to get anything that has rolled or fallen underneath.
- When getting off the bus,

wait for the bus to stop *completely* before getting up from your seat.

- After getting off the school bus, move immediately onto the sidewalk, out of traffic.
 - Wait for a signal from the bus driver before crossing the street. Walk at least 10 steps away from the front of the bus so that the bus driver can see you.
 - Never cross the street behind the school bus.
- Motorists also are reminded to use extra caution in and through school zones and to obey posted speed limits in



Approximately 25 million students ride on school buses every school day.

school zones. With the increasing number of children on the road, the responsibility is on drivers to be more aware.

Things to keep in mind:

- Children are small, making it difficult for them to see motorists and for motorists to see them. This

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Special points of interest:

- 25 million children ride school buses every school day
- You must have a burn permit to burn leaves, limbs or yard clippings within the City Limits.
- TFD is a first responder for medical calls in both the county and the city.

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Fall Brings the Fall of Leaves: Burning Permits

During this time of year the leaves begin to fall and people think about raking and burning. The Tallahassee Fire Department wishes to remind you about burn permits and regulations regarding burning.

A burn permit is required before

burning any leaves, limbs or yard clippings. You must meet the following state requirements for burning before you are issued a permit:

- You must be at least 50 feet from your house, and
- You must be at least 100 feet from a road/street, and

- You must be at least 300 feet from a neighbor's house, and
- You must burn in a barrel or pit with a screen over it.

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Motorist are reminded to use extra caution when driving through school zones.

Back-to-School Safety: The School Bus and Drivers

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is especially true around obstructions like parked or moving cars, buses and bushes.

- Children have underdeveloped peripheral vision, so a child won't see a motorist approaching from the right or left as soon as an adult will.
- Children have difficulty judging a car's speed and distance, leading them to

misjudge how far away from them a moving car really is.

- Children often think, if they can see the driver, the driver can see them.
- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- Watch for children walking in the street, espe-

cially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Also watch for children playing and when approaching bus stops.

- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

By following these simple rules you can make this school season a safe one!

Fall Brings the Fall of Leaves: Burning Permits

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“Do not use flammable or combustible liquids to ignite yard waste; use newspaper or kindling instead ”

-Capt . Tim McCown

- Burning is not permitted on rainy, foggy or windy days; burn on a clear, and low humidity day instead.
- The fire should be attended at all times.
- Children should not be allowed near the fire.
- Only natural vegetation can be burned. No processed wood, rubber, wiring, pvc piping, or shingles.

If you meet these requirements and live within the city limits call 891-6632 to set up an appointment with an inspector. If you reside in the county, please call the Division of Forestry at 922-5155. This permit shall be revoked at any time that:

- The conditions of this permit are not strictly adhered to,
- The Fire Department determines that the smoke or fumes create a nuisance,

- The Fire Department determines that the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of Tallahassee requires revocation,
- The Fire Department determines that environmental and atmospheric conditions do not allow for safe burning, or
- The Fire Department's equipment and personnel must be dispatched to extinguish/control a fire which is the subject of this permit.

More info on the web at talgov.com.

Trick-or-Treating: Make it Safe!



Children enjoying trick or treating door to door.

Trick-or-Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door-to-door, begging "Tricks-or-Treats!" from neighbors or at the local mall. Lots of towns have a Fall Festival so kids can Trick-or-Treat safely. But going door-to-door is the stuff of childhood memories! It should be a fun

time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your children safe every Halloween.

- Children should go out during daylight hours only unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all

times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that children are old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.

- Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places .

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Trick-or-Treating: Make it Safe!

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- Children should stay in well-lighted areas and on the agreed upon route.
- Remind your children to only stop at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.
- Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Instruct your children to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
- Make sure your children carry a flashlight, glow stick or have reflective tape on their costumes to make them more visible to cars.
- Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick-or-Treat without an adult.

Make trick-or-treating safe, so the only thing you have to worry about is whether they eat too much candy!

<http://www.halloween-safety.com/>

“Remind your children to only stop at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult. “

Meet a Firefighter: Robby Powers

Well technically Robby isn't a firefighter but he is an integral part of the City's emergency management team and one of the newest members of the TFD family.

Robby graduated from Florida State University with a degree in political science and a minor in geography. He has certifications in Urban Regional Planning and Public Administration. He spent five years during/after college with the Apalachee Regional

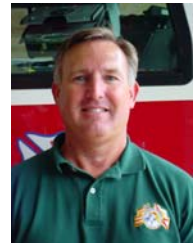
Planning Council where he worked on emergency management disaster preparedness such as hazardous waste and material plans.

Robby then worked for the State of Florida in the area of hazardous material planning. Following this was 12 years with Leon County as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Today Robby works with all city departments reviewing and as-

sisting in updating their disaster plans to ensure consistency within the City and coordination with the County. His job is to ensure the City is trained and prepared to respond and recover from disasters from all hazards, man-made to natural. Robby also gets the Emergency Operations Center ready for the City before it is activated.

We are fortunate to have such an experienced individual on our team.



Robby Powers, your new Emergency Management Coordinator

“My goal is to support each and every department in the area of disaster planning. ”

-Robby Powers

TFD's Strategic Plan

The department recently completed a five-year strategic plan which identified key success factors for the department. Such areas included were training, communications, recruitment, and community

relations. The department has recently gone through a reorganization that will help accomplish the tasks needed to achieve success in these various areas. Through the strategic planning process a new

mission statement was developed, “The Tallahassee Fire Department is to provide for the safety and welfare of our community and our members through prevention, preparation and protection.”



“Proudly serving the capital city”

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THE TALLAHASSEE FIRE DEPARTMENT
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The Newsladder is a publication of the
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Reader Questions

In this issue we address questions concerning emergency calls and how to respond when you are driving and hear sirens.

What happens when I dial 9-1-1 ?

A dispatcher will ask the nature of your emergency. If it is law enforcement and inside the city limits, then TPD is dispatched, if in the county then the call is transferred to the Sheriff's office. If it is a medical emergency, then it is transferred to both the Leon County EMS dispatcher and Fire dispatcher. If it is a fire, then the call is sent to the Fire dispatcher. When the Fire dispatcher receives a 9-1-1 call then the appropriate stations are toned out

and units respond accordingly.

What are you suppose to do if you are driving and hear sirens ?

Slow down and determine the location of the siren's source. If an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind move over to the right hand side of the roadway with care. Once the vehicle has passed, carefully return to the roadway after ensuring that you are clear and all emergency vehicles have passed.

