Motorists reminded of school bus rules

Kids are back to school but they're not the only ones who need to do some homework.

Halton's half-dozen' school bus operators would like motorists to brush up on school bus safety as well.

Unlike math, physics, or science, however, the subject is easy to grasp: the message is simple.

"If the lights are flashing - stop." says Dan Stock, vice-president of Stock School Bus Service

The failure to obey this law could result in a stiff penalty. "It's a hefty. fine and a six pointer." says general manager Paul Dyck

It could also put the lives of school children in peril. He adds that Halton Regional Police will step up enforcement in September

While the message may be simple; Halton's school bus operators are going a long way to get it across. The companies - Stock School Bus Services. Attridge Transportation, Laidlaw Transit, Charterways, Chattam Coach, Halton School Transit and Chrifisa Systems - have formed a committee to work on various school bus projects such as mall displays, a blitz in the local media, and even producing an educational video for cable television.

September is a particularly crucial month Kids are just getting back into the swing of things and are anxious to get home after a day of hitting the books. And, by the same token, motorists, anxious to get to and from work, are not quite used to the distinct yellow vehicles picking up and dropping off their precious cargo.

Drivers and children, he says, are well trained and practised in school bus safety.

However, he adds, "kids are happy to get off. They're excited at the end of the day - and kids will be kids."

By far the majority of motorists obey the law. At the sign of the flashing lights they slow down and stop. When the stop sizn is withdrawn by the driver and the flashing lights turned off, they resume their trip.



With students returning to schools, school bus operators in Halton have launched a safety campaign aimed at reinforcing the safety rules for motorists. who also need time to readjust to a new school year.

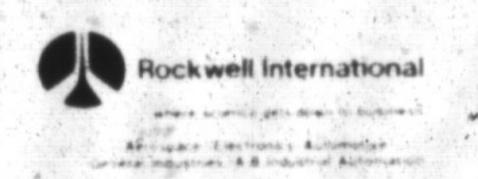
However, Dyck stresses it only takes one slip-up by a motorist -- who is probably a fine citizen - to cause a

tragedy. That is why the bus operators have banded together to 'increase school bus awareness and

school bus safety." And the committee will keep together throughout the year to keep reminding the public of the simple but all-important message: "If the lights are flashing - stop"

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