



HEAT SAFETY ON THE SCHOOL BUS

Summer weather can include excessive, and dangerous, heat. In many parts of the country, the heat doesn't dissipate just because a new school year has started. Does your child's school bus have air conditioning? It is very important that parents find out the answer to that question.

What bus drivers should know about extreme heat

- Extreme heat causes a problem, then the temperature and the humidity combine to create high heat indices. This makes hot weather seem hotter.
- NOTE:** The heat index was devised for shady, light wind conditions. Exposure to full sun can increase the heat index by up to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Strong winds, especially hot dry winds, can be very hazardous.
- You also have to consider the school bus environment.
 - Are there fans or air conditioning?
 - Are the students very young or do they have special needs?

How bus drivers should respond to extreme heat

- Call for help, either another bus or medical assistance, whatever is needed.
- If you don't have a radio, flag down assistance. If you send someone for help, it must be an adult, not a student.
- Open windows, door, and roof vents.
- Turn on your fans.
- Evacuate the students to shade: trees, an overpass, or the opposite side of the school bus from the sun.
- If you have air conditioning that you are running, watch the temperature gauge to make sure the bus does not overheat. Plan your fuel use to make sure you don't run out.
- Gather water and other liquids and make a distribution plan.
- Have students remove any extra or unnecessary clothing.

Recognizing and treating heat illness symptoms

- Skin is sweaty and cold.
- As the heat disorder worsens, skin becomes hot, dry, and red.
- Student feels weak.
- Student may faint or vomit.

Treatment:

- ◇ Cool the student down immediately.
- ◇ Remove clothing,
- ◇ Apply cool wet cloth,
- ◇ Fan the student.
- ◇ Give sips of water.
- ◇ Get medical attention immediately.

Relative Humidity									
TEMPERATURE OF	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
104	98	104	110	120	132				
102	97	101	108	117	125				
100	95	99	105	110	120	132			
98	93	97	101	106	110	125			
96	91	95	98	104	108	120	128		
94	89	93	95	100	105	111	122		
92	87	90	92	96	100	106	114	122	
90	85	88	90	92	96	100	106	114	122
88	92	86	87	89	93	95	100	106	115
86	80	84	85	87	90	92	96	100	109
84	78	81	83	85	86	89	91	95	99
82	77	79	80	81	84	86	89	91	95
80	75	77	78	79	81	83	85	86	89
78	72	75	77	78	79	90	81	83	85
76	70	72	75	76	77	77	77	78	79
74	68	70	73	74	75	75	75	76	77

HUMIDITY °F	DANGER CATEGORY	INJURY THREAT
BELOW 80°	NONE	LITTLE OR NO DANGER UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES
80° to 90°	CAUTION	FATIGUE POSSIBLE IF EXPOSURE IS PROLONGED AND THERE IS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
90° to 105°	EXTREME CAUTION	HEAT CRAMPS AND HEAT EXHAUSTION POSSIBLE IF EXPOSURE IS PROLONGED AND THERE IS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
105° to 130°	DANGER	HEAT CRAMPS OR EXHAUSTION LIKELY, HEAT STROKE POSSIBLE IF EXPOSURE IS PROLONGED AND THERE IS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
ABOVE 130°	EXTREME DANGER	HEAT STROKE IMMINENT!