

# ELK ISLAND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY NEWSLETTER | MARCH

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## PD DAY - KEY MESSAGES

- Bus operators are important members of the school community. Without you, kids would not be able to learn. You matter!

- Think about making "Sunshine Calls" to parents – an initial positive call home. It will make things easier when you need to call about negative behavior in the future.

- Parents want to believe that you know who their child is and that you genuinely like him or her. Start any phone calls to a parent with a positive message to help connect with the parent. For instance:



"Isabelle is so friendly and chatty, it has been a pleasure getting to know her! Unfortunately, I have had to remind her 3 times this week to sit on her bottom while the bus is moving. Could you please remind her to sit safely on the school bus? It is important she is safe at all times. Thank you for your help!"

- The kids that are the hardest to love often need it the most.
- School administrators want to help you be successful. If you are having troubles with a student, don't hesitate to stop in and talk to the school principal.
- If you are not sure whether you should make a phone call home...you probably should do it



## SNOW AND ICE ON COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

The following article is courtesy of the Alberta Government. For further information, please visit <https://work.alberta.ca/documents/OHS-bulletin-GS011.pdf>

## KEY POINTS

- Snow and ice coming off buses while in motion can be dangerous to other vehicles on the highway.
- Removal of snow and ice buildup can create additional hazards for the operator.
- Driver needs to include snow and ice removal into their routine pre-trip inspections during the winter months.
- Routinely cleaning snow from buses can also result in a reduction of potential insurance claims, fines, or civil litigation resulting from falling ice.

## What are the hazards of snow and ice on buses?

When loose snow blows off buses there is often a temporary loss of visibility for other vehicles on the road. When the accumulated snow melts and freezes, thick chunks of ice may form. If these pieces dislodge when the vehicle is in motion, they can create hazards for other road users.

Removing the snow and ice buildup can be hazardous for bus operators as well because it involves working from heights, working in close proximity to vehicle traffic, and ascending and descending ladders, which can be slippery. These factors should be considered during the hazard assessment process, and control measures to mitigate these hazards should be put in place.

## What are the regulations and fines?

Below are some excerpts from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation:

- Failing to Secure Cargo  
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation AR 121/2009, 17(4)  
(\$776.00)
- Failing to Inspect the Vehicle's Cargo  
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation AR 121/2009  
(\$310.00)
- Careless Driving  
115(1) Traffic Safety Act  
(\$543.00)

### For more information:

<https://www.solgps.alberta.ca/>

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3.htm>



# FIRST AID MINUTE

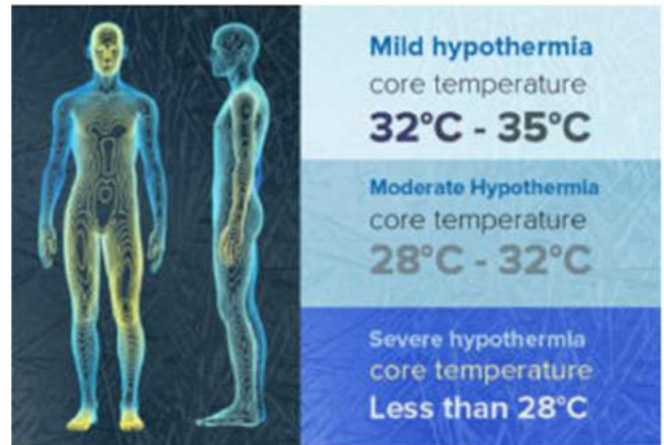
## HYPOTHERMIA

\*Referenced from the Canadian Red Cross First Aid & CPR Manual 2011 ed.

**DEFINITION:** Hypothermia is a life threatening condition that develops when a person's body temperature drops too low

### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Hypothermia can be mild, moderate or severe
- Hypothermia can get worse very quickly if the person is wet and the environment is cold
- Hypothermia can slowly get worse if the person is dry but the environment is cold
- Hypothermia can occur at any time of the year



### TREATMENT:

1. Check the scene and make sure you are safe
2. If safe, check the person and the person's airway, breathing, and circulation
3. Call 911/EMS for severe hypothermia
4. Treat the person very gently and monitor breathing carefully
5. Get the person away from the cold and into some kind of shelter, if possible
6. Remove any wet clothing and dry the person
7. Warm the person by wrapping them in blankets or putting on dry clothing. Cover the head and neck. Warm the person **slowly** - warming too quickly can cause heart problems
8. If hot water bottles, heating pads, or other heat sources are available, put them in each armpit, groin, and the back of the neck. If you are using a heating pad, make sure the person is dry. Keep a blanket, towel, or clothing between the heat source and the skin to avoid burns
9. If the person is alert, give them warm liquids to drink (no alcohol or caffeine)
10. Provide continual care until EMS personnel arrive

Special thanks to Krista (Rt 138) for providing the information above and in previous First Aid Minutes!

## POSITIVE FEEDBACK

**GWEN (RT 60):** Gwen did an amazing job with building up a rapport with a student with some social challenges. The mother of the student was very happy and grateful for all the work Gwen has done with her child. Great job, Gwen!

**LINDA (RT 38):** Linda had an amazingly fast response in finding a missing child on her bus recently. She then went out of her way to deliver the child safely home. Thank you for going above and beyond, Linda!

**NICHOLE (RT 11), MICHELLE (RT 35), & DEBRAH (RT 36):** We received a glowing email from a parent whose children ride bus 11, bus 35, and bus 36. She wanted to thank Nichole, Michelle, and Debrah for doing a fantastic job every day and getting her children to and from school safely. She said her family is very appreciative of the care the drivers take with her children. Thank you, ladies!

**SHERRI (RT 42):** Sherri was quick to notice that a student got on her bus to go home when he was actually supposed to get on a bus to the daycare. Instead of just letting him off at home, Sherri first called the parents to ensure someone would be home for him. The parents were very grateful that they were contacted as no one was home and his mother was able to rush home to meet him. Great job, Sherri!

**MELISSA (RT 127):** Melissa showed incredible First Aid skills and judgement when witnessing someone fall in a parking lot. She immediately sprang into action (ensuring she secured her bus first) without hesitation. She helped keep the injured person calm while waiting for the ambulance to arrive and engaged bystanders to assist. Amazing, Melissa! We appreciate your quick thinking and care.

**Thank you to all our amazing bus operators for all you do. Have an excellent Spring Break!**

