



# Lifeguard Newsletter

October 2012

Volume 8, Number 4

When contacting Lifeguard through your local dispatch or by calling (800)223-6627, please be ready to provide the following:

- Your general location & type of Emergency
- Identify frequency that Lifeguard will be using to speak with ground units
- Identify who Lifeguard will be speaking with

*Lifeguard Air  
Ambulance  
1026 A Ave N.E.  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
52406-3026*

*Going the Distance to Save Lives*

## School Bus Safety

School has been in session for over a month now, and we are again seeing and hearing the kids as they head to school. Where I live, many parents drive their children to and from school, parking along the street in front of my house. At the corner is a crossing guard to ensure the children's safety in crossing the intersection. The crossing guard wears a bright orange vest and holds a large stop sign. When the guard is holding that sign up, all vehicles must wait to go through the intersection. When she puts the sign back down to her side, and this will only be after she has safely escorted the children across, the cars are allowed to go through. It seems a minor action for the safety of the children crossing and yet it does keep them safe.

Something else that keeps children safe is simply riding the bus. More than half of all US schoolchildren ride the school bus and it is the safest form of transportation on the American road. In fact, children are 7 times safer riding the bus than riding in the family car. Why? Because the school bus is heavier, bigger and sits higher than the objects they collide with. The majority of deaths involving school buses occur in the other vehicles. Just like the crossing guard, the school bus itself has a stop sign that goes up when children are getting on/off. The bus itself is bright yellow (like the vest) and the flashing lights on it make it highly visible.

The buses themselves must meet strict federal guidelines which include fuel-tank protection, to seating systems to emergency exits. School buses are designed with a passive restraint system known as compartmentalization. This incorporates closely-spaced, well-padded seats with high seat backs. This design is meant to keep children safe without the use of seatbelts. The drivers themselves must hold commercial driver's licenses and in most states, take specialized safety training.

Now that the subject of seatbelts has been mentioned, there has been a long and heated debate over the years about whether buses should incorporate seat belts into their safety system. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has data showing that compartmentalization has been effective at protecting the passengers while the addition of lap belts does not improve their protection for the severe frontal impacts. Both the National Transportation Safety Board and the National Academy of Sciences agreed. All have concluded that the overall benefits of requiring seat belts were insufficient to justify a mandate for installation. The National Academy of Sciences also suggested that the funds that would have been used to purchase and maintain the belts might be better spent on other school bus safety programs, specifically on the loading and unloading zones for children.

So, the data clearly shows that buses are the safest form of travel for your children and grandchildren. Want some more facts? Students are 50 times more likely to arrive at school alive if they take the bus than if they drive themselves or ride with friends. Student fatalities that occur when traveling with a teen driver are 58%, and when traveling with an adult driver are 23%. But when traveling by school bus the average is only one percent. One percent! School buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off the roads surrounding schools each morning. And with those numbers, I would hate to think what my street would look like if more of those children did not ride the bus!

### References

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, October 2009  
Seat Belts on School buses; May 2006
- School Bus Safety; 2008

### Requesting Lifeguard:

Remember if you are unsure whether you'll need

Lifeguard, you may tell Lifeguard, you may tell dispatch that you would like to place Lifeguard on "stand-by".

The crew will prepare for lift-off while awaiting the "go-mission" call. This saves minutes on lift-off time because the crew is already at the helicopter, and ready for lift-off.

You can also request Lifeguard to be an "in air" standby. This is a good option for when call are a distance away. There is no charge if Lifeguard is cancelled.

### Attention:

We would like to take this opportunity to ask all the surrounding services to look at the upcoming year, 2013. We at Lifeguard are looking to be able to better provide you with educational opportunities. In order to make this happen, we would like to be able to schedule these classes for you throughout the year. We know you already look ahead and schedule us in for your monthly meetings when safety training time comes along. We would now like you to look ahead and schedule us in for other training that we can provide to you. This would help you as you know what your crews need in order to meet their needs for re-certifications and this helps us in being able to look ahead and schedule our personnel accordingly. Some of our more popular educational classes have been EMS Trivia, Sepsis, Stroke, and Childbirth in the Field, just to name a few. Give us a call and let's see what we can do together!

### Upcoming Educational Opportunities

10/19	Kids in Crisis	Mercy-Des Moines
10/22	AMTC	Seattle
10/29	Grain Bin Rescue	NICC
10/30	Pick Your Poison	St. Luke's
11/2 & 3	Tri-State Emergency Responder Conf.	Dubuque
11/8	IEMSA	Des Moines

*Come see us at our booth at the Tri-State Conference & IEMSA Conference!! We love to see new faces and visit with old friends!*

*Check out our new merchandise*

### Updates and Reminders

Thanks to all who scheduled their Safety Training Classes this past summer. We had fun and we hope you learned what you wanted to.

The Iowa Air Medical Safety Committee is asking that all services use law/mutual aid without tone codes for all communication with an incoming helicopter.

### TIDBITS

- Don't forget the bracelet for your patient after placing an IO. **Important!**
- New ideas out there: neon orange flags that can be easily seen by the Lifeguard pilot during the day for the landing crew!!

### Did You Know:

October is: Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, & National Pizza Month  
The 1<sup>st</sup> week of October is Get Organized Week; 2<sup>nd</sup> week is Fire Prevention Week; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> week is Pastoral Care Week

October 7th is Oktoberfest, 10th is Emergency Nurses Day, 24th is National Bologna Day

November is: Aviation History Month, Child Safety Protection Month, & National Adoption Awareness Month

November 1 is All Saints Day, 10th is USMC Day, 11th is Veteran's Day, and November 22 is Thanksgiving

December is: Made in America Month, Write to a Friend Month & Safe Toys and Gifts Month  
December 5th is Repeal Day (21<sup>st</sup> amendment ended prohibition), 6th is St Nicholas Day, 7th is Pearl Harbor Day, 21st is when the Mayan Calendar ends, and the 25th is Christmas



See you next year!

