

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Subject: Traffic Safety Problem

The La Porte Police Department is asking for the public's help in increasing traffic safety in the City of La Porte, particularly in one very specific area. We have in reference to motorists passing school buses when they are stopped and unloading kids, particularly in the 200 through 800 blocks of Pine Lake Avenue. Motorists need to remember that they must stop for all school buses that have their red lights and stop arm extended on all two lane roads and four lane undivided roads. Failure to stop under those conditions means that the motorist has committed Reckless Driving, a Class B Misdemeanor. This is also considered a major violation on a Commercial Driver's License.

While committing a Class B Misdemeanor is not the end of the world for most people, I respectfully ask our motoring public to consider the other possible consequences of passing a school bus that is loading or unloading kids; the fact that they may injure or kill a child and have to live with it the rest of their lives. Having been a police officer for 29 years I have responded to a number of fatal traffic crashes, including a few where small children were the ones that were fatally injured. So please, for heaven's sake, think about the possible consequences of your actions before passing a school bus that is stopped with its red lights on and arm extended.

I have asked all Patrol Division personnel to attempt to monitor this situation and address any violators without showing any mercy whatsoever. That means if a motorist is stopped for this violation he/she will be charged with Reckless Driving as well as any other violations that the officers find during the stop. Officers will be using some different approaches than they have used in the past and we intend to stop this driving behavior before one of our community's children is killed.