



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Big Yellow Caution Zone St. John Ambulance Encourages Families to Review School Bus Safety

August 29, 2011 (Toronto, ON) – With back to school fast approaching, parents and children alike are anxiously awaiting the sight of the big yellow school bus to take them off to friends and learning. But it's important to remember that the size of the bus and the number of kids on board can create some unique safety challenges. Before you prepare to send the kids off on their big day – remember to review school bus safety.

Outside the Bus:

- **Beware blind spots.** Teach children about the bus danger zones, these are blind spots where the bus driver is unable to see them, or there is a risk of being hit. Once they know the danger zone, have them stay clear
- **Be on time.** The less of a rush your children are in the less likely they are to make a safety mistake
- **Be seen.** Whenever attempting to cross in front of a bus, make sure they wait for a signal from the driver before crossing. It is important they are acknowledged by the driver to make sure they are not at risk of being hit
- **Wait for the okay.** Do not approach the bus until signaled by the driver
- **Stay away.** Never walk or play behind a bus
- **Leave it.** If a child drops something in front of a bus, they should be encouraged to leave it. If a child bends down and disappears from sight, the bus driver may assume they have left. It is safer just to leave it until the bus is gone or to ask the driver for assistance

On the Bus:

- **The bus driver is the boss.** Children should listen to the directions of the bus driver
- **What stays in the vehicle stays on you.** Keep head, arms and legs inside the vehicle
- **Behave.** Avoid roughhousing, no yelling, jumping or throwing things – anything that could distract the driver
- **Clear the aisle.** Keep the aisles free of debris such as knapsacks and toys to prevent falls

For over 125 years St. John Ambulance has been teaching first aid in Ontario. Today we train over 155,000 Ontarians annually in first aid and other health care related courses and remains dedicated to saving lives at work, home and play. With over 4,000 volunteers contributing over half a million hours of community service a year, St. John Ambulance is an integral part of the community offering such unique and innovative programs as; medical first response, disaster response, car seat clinics, health and safety related youth programs and therapy dog services. As a charitable, humanitarian organization, proceeds from St. John Ambulance's first aid training and first aid product sales directly support these vital community services programs. For more information on St. John Ambulance training courses and volunteer opportunities or to contact your Mississauga branch at www.mississauga@on.sja.ca.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE