

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 2023 PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS:

These tips are intended for residents, visitors and property owners of Brookfield, VT but may apply to neighboring towns as well.

SCHOOL IS ABOUT TO START: School buses and kids getting on and off can be a challenge if you are heading to or from work or other activities. Please exercise extra caution in your driving. Consider traveling earlier or later than the school bus drive time. Watch for kids waiting for the bus or just getting off the bus. They may dart out into the road without warning. Even if the children are not thinking clearly, no one wants to hit a child!

BOATING AND SWIMMING SAFETY: If you listen, watch or read the media this time of year you will learn about boating or swimming accidents that are often fatal. After they happen, we wonder why the victims were not better prepared. It is often those inconvenient things that we would rather not do because we don't think we will have an accident. Life vests, life rings with adequate rope attached, family rehearsals of what to do if someone falls in the water or if the boat, kayak or canoe capsizes. Only when all else fails should you jump in the water to rescue someone. Taking a towel or stick with you will avoid struggling with a panicked person. Even trained and physically fit life guards are challenged when trying to save a terrified victim in the water.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN. Please take the time to drive more defensively, and avoid distractions while driving (that text from family or friend can wait!). Help us work as a community to make the journey to work, school or errands safer for us all.

REFLECTIVE CLOTHING AND GEAR: Are you wearing reflective material when you walk, jog or ride bicycles or horses, particularly during periods of reduced visibility? It gets light later in the morning and earlier in the evening from now on until late-December. Reflective gear properly worn is better than waving a flash light around and keeps you more visible without any special effort. If you don't think reflective gear is stylish enough for you, you can purchase and apply reflective tape to your favorite walking, running, riding clothes and footwear.

FLOODING DAMAGE: Are you having trouble navigating the recovery process? Can't get answers? Have you tried calling 211? They may be able to help you figure some things out and/or refer you to people who can.

Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee: Mike Stoddard, Stuart Edson, Dan Mason Michael Rutkovsky, and Lew Stowell.