

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2025 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 starting as it does every late August and early September requires all drivers to be particularly careful. Not only do we have the usual return of school buses making frequent stops, the possibility of children darting into the road and teenage drivers rushing to school but we also have other drivers in a hurry who had not planned for the delay of school buses or school children.
- ❖ The schools have adopted a variety of schedules that make some of the weekdays different from each other. This causes more and different traffic on some days than others. The additional pressure of the changing schedule may cause both parents and children to occasionally make sudden changes of direction, worried about being late or which door to let off which child at.
- ❖ We all need to plan things accordingly. Certainly, driving more defensively and avoiding distractions will be very important. We should all leave a little earlier or later than usual on our trips and above all, be patient and understanding of others trying to cope in a difficult driving situation.
- ❖ Remember that if a school bus has stopped it may be about to turn on its flashing lights and kids may be about to appear in the road either from the bus itself or from the edge of the road. Exercise extreme caution near a school bus whether it is a big yellow one or a smaller one of whatever color.
- ❖ If you need to answer or make a call on your cell phone, pull over and do it safely. Even a phone in hands-free -mode is a distraction. Other distractions are like drinking your coffee and eating your donut or Danish while driving. At the very least, it is potentially messy. Distracted driving is a major cause of accidents. Distracted driving around schools or school buses is particularly dangerous. Get the car stopped safely at the school before talking with your children about various instructions. Please avoid distractions while driving!

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