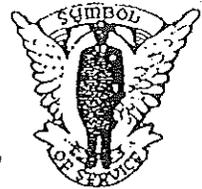


INFORMATION BULLETIN

September 28, 1987



SUMMARY OF SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENTS, FISCAL YEAR 1986/87

This bulletin provides a summary of the accidents that occurred in California involving school buses transporting children to or from school and school activities during fiscal year 1986/87. It also includes a brief summary of school pupil activity bus (SPAB) accidents.

FATAL ACCIDENTS

School buses were involve in six fatal accidents, with no pupil passengers or pedestrians killed. The only school bus occupant fatality was the driver of a Type II, contractor school bus, transporting nine (9) special education children. In this case the bus driver was killed when he drifted off the roadway and struck a power pole. Six occupants of other vehicles or pedestrians were killed in accidents involving school buses.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Category	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87
Total Accidents	1,737	2,137	2,441
Fatal Accidents	3	4	6
Pupil Passengers Killed	1	0	0
Pupil Pedestrians Killed	0	1	0
Injury Accidents	387	419	455
Pupil Passengers Injured	586	380	630
Severe Injury	11	0	4
Moderate Injury	148	103	103
Complaint of Pain	427	277	523
Pupil Pedestrian Injured	6	6	8
Severe Injury	0	0	1
Moderate Injury	6	2	5
Complaint of Pain	0	4	2
Property Damage Accidents	1,347	1,714	1,980
Total School Buses	19,179	19,773	21,653
Total Mileage	261,603,016	274,634,191	290,319,706

SCHOOL BUSES, MILEAGE AND ACCIDENTS

Type 1 School Buses

	Total	Miles	Accidents	Accidents per 1,000,000 Mi.
Public School	10,969	138,832,746	1,076	7.8
Contractor	3,447	51,319,274	667	13.0
Private School	887	7,748,351	44	5.7
TOTALS	15,303	197,900,371	1,787	9.0

Type 2 School Buses

	Total	Miles	Accidents	Accidents per 1,000,000 Mi.
Public School	2,586	30,794,148	269	8.7
Contractor	3,314	57,022,940	332	5.8
Private School	450	4,602,247	53	11.5
TOTALS	6,350	92,419,335	654	7.0

PRIMARY CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

School Bus Drivers. School bus driver errors were the primary cause of 1083 (44%) accidents, of which 799 (74%) involved Type 1 school buses and 284 (26%) involved Type 2 school buses. The following violations committed by school bus drivers were most prevalent in causing accidents:

Improper turning	371	34%
Unsafe start/backing	248	23%
Unsafe speed	128	12%
Right-of-way	63	6%
Unsafe lane change	26	2%
Wrong side of the road	25	2%
Traffic signal/sign	14	1%
Improper passing	13	1%
Following too closely	8	1%

Other Drivers. The errors of the other drivers were the primary cause of 1071 (44%) of the accidents. The following violations committed by other drivers were most prevalent in causing school bus accidents:

Unsafe speed	253	24%
Unsafe start/backing	122	11%
Unsafe lane change	122	11%
Improper turning	119	11%
Right-of-way	108	10%
Improper passing	67	6%
Wrong side of the road	52	5%
Traffic signal/sign	49	4%
Following too closely	13	1%

Other than Driver. Two hundred eighty seven (12%) of the school bus accidents resulted from causes other than the driver.

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Of the total accidents during 1986/87, school buses were involved with:

Other motor vehicle	1,593
Parked motor vehicle	387
Fixed object	234
Non-collision	132
Pedestrian	27
Other object	27
Bicyclist	24
Animal	12
Motor vehicle, other road	4
Train	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	2,441

ACCIDENTS BY MONTH OF FISCAL YEAR 1985/86

July	66	January	234
August	16	February	246
September	271	March	307
October	282	April	219
November	252	May	235
December	182	June	131

SCHOOL PUPIL ACTIVITY BUSES

During this reporting period 2,280 SPABs travelled 6,315,939 miles to transport pupils on school related activity trips. SPABs were involved in nine accidents, three of which were injury accidents. Of the total injuries,

two passengers in other vehicles received visible injuries, and one SPAB driver and five passengers complained of pain. SPAB drivers were found to have been the primary cause of four of the nine accidents.

ENFORCEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

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