



Keep Students Safe When Loading and Unloading Buses

In recent weeks, we have witnessed three incidents of school children being dragged outside school buses when their book bags became stuck in the doors of the school bus. Thankfully, none of the three children involved were hurt seriously but one can only imagine the fear that they experienced at the time.

In follow-up to those incidents, we must do all we can as professionals to ensure that these kinds of accidents do not continue to happen.

Utica National Insurance Group is working closely with organizations like the New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) to urge our customers, including school districts and school bus operators all across the state, to reinforce best practices for loading and unloading children at their bus stops to keep children safe. These include:

- Waiting until the students are at least 15 feet away from the bus before closing the doors and pulling away.
- Using mirrors on the bus to observe whether there are any objects or children in the danger zone alongside the bus.

School bus drivers perform a most valuable function for our schools and our children. Utica National recognizes the tremendous safety record that our school buses and school bus drivers have attained. These incidents call our attention to the need for continued and focused training and refresher programs to help reduce the risk of such accidents in the future.

The upcoming Winter Workshop is being offered by the New York Association for Pupil Transportation February 18 and 19 in Albany, New York at which these and other safety topics will be addressed. We encourage our insured customers to consider participating in programs like the NYAPT Winter Workshop to remain current.

All of us at the **Utica National Insurance Group** want every child in the state to have a safe ride to and from school each day. Our school transportation managers and drivers should focus on areas like this that require increased attention

