



The City of New York
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Bulletin: Fall 2017 Safety Awareness

To: BIC Trade Waste Licensees and Registrants

New York City public schools will begin classes on Thursday, September 7, 2017. With the start of a new school year, our city streets will once again be bustling with school buses picking up and dropping off students, parents will be walking their children to school, and some students will be learning new walking routes to get to school. In addition to these back-to-school changes, fall also ushers in the end of daylight savings time on November 5, 2017. It will get darker much earlier.

In order to promote safe driving behavior during this fall season, we write to remind you that safety must be the top priority.

Here are some helpful reminders to help prevent collisions and near misses:

- *Be on the lookout for pedestrians of all ages.* More than 75% of children in NYC either walk to school or take transit. For those who walk to and from school, it is often dark outside. Drive like your family lives in the neighborhood and obey all traffic signals and signs. Do not block the crosswalk. If you see a pedestrian in the street, be careful.
- *Slow down near schools and parks.* Although the City speed limit is 25 MPH, designated “school zones” often have signs indicating a lower speed limit and/or other safety measures such as speed bumps to reduce speed. Driving 20 MPH or less in these areas can make the difference in a crash. Before you turn – pause, use turn signals, scan for pedestrians and cyclists, double check your mirrors and be aware of the vehicle’s obstructed vision spots.

- *Monitor the street for cyclists.* Some NYC streets have shared bike lanes. When driving parallel to a cyclist in the same direction, pause before turning and expect cyclists near intersections.
- *Encourage your drivers and helpers to stay well rested.* A recent study shows that football season (August through November) is linked to drowsy driving related incidents among waste collection vehicle drivers. The study analyzed video telematics from 33,000 drivers working for five of the largest private waste companies in the U.S. from 2012 to 2016. Read more about the study here: <http://www.waste360.com/safety/lytx-study-shows-link-between-return-nfl-season-and-drowsy-driving>.
- *Voluntarily conduct sleep apnea screening and testing.* Even drivers who go to bed with enough time to get the recommended seven to eight hours of sleep still may not be getting enough sleep due to a sleep disorder like sleep apnea. Sleep apnea disrupts sleep and is the leading cause of excessive daytime sleepiness, yet it often goes undiagnosed. Despite the recent elimination of federal sleep apnea screening and testing requirements for truck drivers, it is important to continue to conduct these tests to help keep our streets safe.
 - *Combat drowsy driving:* The Center for Disease Control and Prevention released the following fact sheet highlighting signs of drowsy driving and ways to prevent it: <https://www.cdc.gov/Features/dsdrowsydriving/drowsy-driving-infographic.pdf>

We appreciate all of your efforts to make the trade waste industry safer. Together, we can help the City achieve its Vision Zero goal of ending traffic-related deaths and injuries in New York City.

