Be Prepared for Emergencies

School bus transportation involves the potential to encounter a wide array of emergencies every day. Potential emergencies are always an issue when you are dealing with students, traffic, personal issues, and weather/road conditions.

Emergency Preparation

It is said that the only thing harder than planning for an emergency is explaining why you did not.

Following are a few items to have so that you are better prepared to handle an emergency:

- Keep an updated roster of passengers.
- Be aware of special medical conditions of any students.
- Make sure that you have a way of communicating with the school district (two way radios, cell phone, etc.). You may need to have emergency contact numbers for district administration, transportation supervisor and emergency personnel.
- Be sure that emergency contact information is available. Such information will include the bus and route number, bus drivers name, school district name, school address and telephone number.
- Make sure there is a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, bloodborne pathogen kit and reflectors on the bus and that they are ready for use.
- Keep your first aid/CPR training current.
- Practice emergency evacuation drills.
- Carry a copy of your district’s emergency procedures.
- In defensive driving, you plan how to avoid situations that may arise. Think about your response to various emergencies that may arise.
- Remember, as the only adult on the bus, you need to keep yourself safe.

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere. And when they strike, you may not have much time to prepare. Emergency planning may not prevent emergencies, but it can protect lives. Be prepared because you care!