

August 18, 2015

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Pay attention to those flashing lights in school zones - Burleson Independent School District students are back in school Monday, Aug. 24.

The City of Burleson maintains more than a dozen school zone flashers. The Texas Department of Transportation maintains the flashing school zone lights on FM 1902, East Renfro Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

The City is testing the flashing lights starting Wednesday, Aug. 19. Hours for elementary school zones are 7 a.m.-8 a.m. and 2:40 p.m.-3:40 p.m. Hours for the middle schools are 7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m. And, hours for the high schools' school zones are 8 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

"Remember when schools zones are active, children are active and they don't stop to see if it's clear before they dart across the street," Burleson Police Traffic Sgt. B. O'Heren said. "This is especially relevant around elementaries and middle schools. Your speed and awareness will be the driving difference whether you strike a child or not!

The Burleson Police Department's traffic unit and patrol officers are monitoring the school zones. The City of Burleson is responsible for two school zones (three schools) in the Joshua School District and 13 in the Burleson School District.

School zones exist on South Dobson Street, East Miller Street, South Lawson Street, East Ellison Street, South Hurst Road, Blayke Street, Hillside Drive, Collett Street, Southwest Thomas Street, Northwest Newton Street, Northwest Tarrant Street, Lynnewood Avenue, Evelyn Lane, Gardens Boulevard, East Renfro Street, Northeast Alsbury Boulevard, Elk Drive, Southwest Murphy Street, Southeast Gregory Street, Irene Street, Southeast Dian Street, Southwest Johnson Avenue, Summercrest Boulevard, McAlister, Wilshire Boulevard/Hwy.174, Ranchway Drive, and FM 1902. New this year is school flashers on Southwest Murphy Street, between Ann Lois and Northwest Newton Street.

Remember, if you don't have a hands-free device you can't use your cell phone while driving through an active school zone in Burleson. This change has been in effect since 2009. It is illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used. "Use of a

wireless communication device” includes texting, reading or answering e-mails, and any and all other functions of a cellular telephone. Violating this law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$50.

Drivers, regardless of which direction you are approaching the school bus on a highway (and students are getting on or off the bus), must stop before reaching the school bus when the bus is operating a visual signal. Drivers may not proceed until the school bus resumes driving; the bus driver signals other drivers to proceed or the visual signal is no longer activated. If the roadway is divided by a median then the motorist on the opposite side of the roadway from the school bus is not required to stop. If the roadway is not divided by a median then they are required to stop.