



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2015 SCHOOLS OPEN CAMPAIGN BEGINS AUGUST 12TH

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office announces the **2015 SCHOOLS OPEN CAMPAIGN** in conjunction with the opening of Louisa County Public Schools on Wednesday, August 12th.

Sheriff Fortune encourages all drivers to exercise extra caution on county roads during times school buses pick up and drop off students. While school transportation is extremely safe, a small number of school-age children die nationwide in traffic-related mishaps each year. Of these mishaps, nearly two-thirds are killed outside the bus. Sheriff Fortune reminds drivers when the bus's flashing red lights are illuminated, vehicles must stop and remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus moves again. Drivers must also stop if the bus is loading or unloading passengers and the signals are not on. Speeding past a school bus's flashing yellow caution lights as it slows for a stop is also extremely dangerous.

In addition to county roadways, the Sheriff's Office will have an active presence at each of our six public schools to heighten awareness of reduced speed limits in school zones. During designated periods, normally 30 minutes before and after the start and end of each school day, the speed limit in school zones is reduced to 25 miles per hour. Watch for the yellow school zone flashing lights indicating the reduced speed limit is in effect. Also keep in mind Louisa County High School will be in its new facility. Traffic flow for high school buses and parent drop-offs will change.

During the **2015 SCHOOLS OPEN CAMPAIGN**, deputies will also take aggressive action to reduce the incidence of child safety seat misuse by parents/caregivers and seat belt nonuse by teens. In the United States, vehicle mishaps are a major killer of children under 17 years of age. According to Virginia law, child safety seats are mandatory for all children through 7 years of age. Children, 8 through 17 years of age, must be properly restrained using an appropriate child safety seat or vehicle seat belt. Child safety seat and seat belt laws for minors are primary enforcement – no other violation need be committed prior to summoning. The Sheriff's Office would also like to remind parents/caregivers children 12 years of age and younger should always ride in the rear seat.

Additional information on Virginia child safety seat and seat belt law is available on the Sheriff's Office web page (<http://www.louisacounty.com/LCsheriff/csi.htm>) or by contacting any Louisa County School Resource Officer. Nationally certified technicians are available for free child safety seat checks Mon – Fri (4 – 5 pm) and the 2nd Sat of every month (10 am – 12 pm). All checks are conducted by appointment only. For more information or to schedule a child safety seat appointment, please call (540) 223-8348.

Keeping our youth safe is an important priority for Louisa County's Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Louisa County. By working together, we can make the **2015 SCHOOLS OPEN CAMPAIGN** the most effective ever!

Working together, we all Learn And Win!