

# Arizona Department of Public Safety

## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

### Quarterly School Bus News



July 2025, Edition: 3

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- Safety Compliance Highlights
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#### Twice a Year—Because Every Second Counts

Arizona Administrative Code **R13-13-104.D.31** requires that school bus evacuation drills be conducted at least twice each school year. These drills are not just a requirement—they are a critical part of preparing students and staff for emergencies. Are you compliant?

To support safe and effective evacuations, we're excited to share our new School Bus Evacuation Training Video. This resource offers clear, visual guidance on best practices for conducting evacuation drills, ensuring your team is ready when it matters most.

**Watch the Evacuation Video Here:**  
[School Bus Evacuation Video](#)

Let's make safety second nature—**review, rehearse, and be ready.**

#### Distracted Driving: Eight Seconds Can Change Everything

As school transportation professionals, safety is our highest priority — and that starts behind the wheel. One of the most dangerous risks to student safety on and off the bus is **distracted driving**.

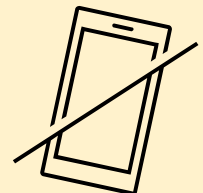
According to national studies, it takes only **eight seconds of distraction** to cause a life-altering crash. That's the chilling message behind the powerful Minnesota Department of Public Safety video titled "**Eight Seconds**" — a real and emotional reminder of how one moment of distraction can lead to irreversible tragedy.

**Watch the video here:** [Eight Seconds - One Fatal Distraction](#)

Whether it's glancing at a phone, adjusting the radio, or eating behind the wheel, all violations of the Arizona Minimum Standards, any activity that takes your attention off the road can have devastating consequences — especially when transporting students.

#### Remember:

- **No text or call is worth a life.**
- **Stay alert and hands-free at all times.**
- **Lead by example** — students are always watching.



Let's commit to being fully present every time we're behind the wheel. **Eight seconds** may not seem long — until it's too late.

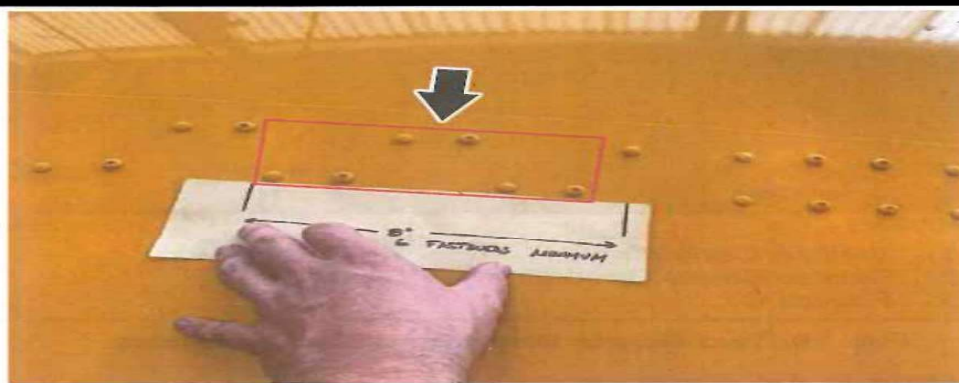
## Updates from the Inspectors

### Critical Safety Notice: Roof Seam Recall on Thomas Buses

Thomas Built Buses manufactured between **March 1, 2010, and August 1, 2022**, have been recalled due to insufficient adhesive in the roof ridge seams. Repairs must be completed at an authorized Thomas dealership by installing mechanical reinforcement screws into the seams.

⚠ Important: Some buses were incorrectly repaired—missing screws beneath rooftop A/C units. These buses must return to the dealership for corrective work. Each roof seam must have at least six fasteners (rivets or screws) every 8 inches. Please refer to the attached image for the required screw pattern.

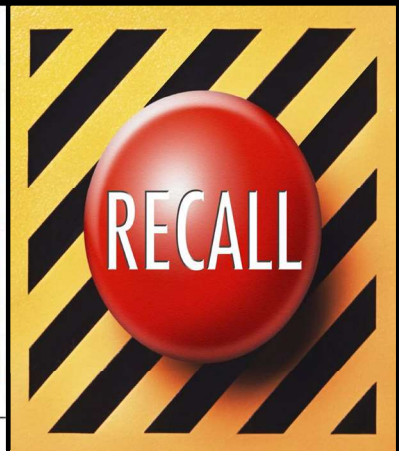
**Questions?** Contact your AZ DPS school bus inspector for further guidance or verification.



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**Fig. 17, Six Fasteners Installed in an Eight-Inch Span**



## Minimum Standard Violations & the STAC

Decorations prohibited by Arizona Administrative Code	Signs & Banners on Buses Arizona Administrative Code R13-13-107(15)(a)	Student Transportation Advisory Council
<p>According to AAC R13-13-104.D.24, all decorations or unsecured objects/items are prohibited. School bus drivers shall ensure all objects inside the bus are secured or under passenger control to prevent injury or distraction.</p>	<p>Per AAC R13-13-107(15)(a), while a school bus is in motion, traveling down the roadway, the signs, lettering, and objects approved by state law or the Minimum Standards regulations shall appear on the interior or exterior of a school bus, including all glass areas. All others are not authorized.</p>	<p>The Governor's Office has officially appointed eleven (11) members to the STAC. Notices of Hearings and updates are available at: <a href="https://publicmeetings.az.gov/arizona-public-meetings">https://publicmeetings.az.gov/arizona-public-meetings</a></p> <p><b>Let's work together to keep Arizona's students safe on every ride.</b></p> <p><b>For more updates, visit the Arizona DPS Student Transportation website or contact your regional coordinator.</b></p>