Schoolbus Safety – Winter Weather and Adverse Conditions Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Reduced Traction:** Snow, ice, and slush decrease tire grip, increasing the risk of skidding and accidents.
2. **Decreased Visibility:** Heavy snowfall and fog can obscure the road, pedestrians, and other vehicles, making navigation hazardous.
3. **Extended Braking Distances:** Slippery roads require longer stopping distances, challenging drivers to maintain safe following intervals.
4. **Mechanical Failures:** Cold temperatures can affect bus components, such as batteries and braking systems, potentially leading to breakdowns.
5. **Route Obstructions:** Accumulated snow and ice may block roads or create obstacles, necessitating detours and increasing travel time.
6. **Passenger Safety Concerns:** Icy conditions heighten the risk of slips and falls for students boarding or alighting from the bus.

STATS

- Approximately 24% of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy, slushy, or icy pavement, and 15% happen during snowfall or sleet.
- Between 2013 and 2022, there were 1,082 fatalities and approximately 132,000 injuries resulting from school bus-related crashes. While not all are due to winter conditions, adverse weather significantly contributes to these incidents.
- Approximately 25% of vehicle crashes are attributed to adverse weather conditions, including snow and ice.
- In 2021, there were 104 fatalities related to school bus incidents, with winter conditions contributing to a portion of these accidents.
- Adverse weather conditions, such as snowstorms and icy roads, frequently cause school bus delays or cancellations. For instance, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, transportation may be canceled if temperatures drop to -34°C or colder, as reported by Environment Canada.