



## Press Release

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### SCF reminds motorists to beware in school zones

More than 50 years ago, Phoenix became the first city in the United States to establish school zones requiring the speed limit to be reduced to 15 miles per hour. As children head back to school, SCF Arizona reminds adult drivers of their responsibilities, when they pass through a school zone.

While SCF Arizona provides workers' compensation insurance benefits to injured workers, it also recognizes its responsibility to promote safety beyond the workplace. This is why Arizona's cities and towns participate in the Safe Routes to Schools program, constantly analyzing issues to improve safety for pedestrians. The Safe Routes to Schools Program involves parents, children, community members, schools' staffs, traffic engineers, city planners, law enforcement officers, community leaders and others.

Among the variety of speed control measures this program recommends are:

- Fifteen mph speed limit signs placed during school hours
- School zones with a speed limit of 35 mph at all times
- School zones with a speed limit of 35 mph during specified hours/days
- School zones with a speed limit of 35 mph when the lights are flashing
- Red-light cameras at selected schools
- School crossing guards
- Speed advisory signs to let motorists know their speed
- Wider and more sidewalks
- More obvious crosswalks
- Active driver feedback speed signs
- Florescent yellow-green school warning signs
- Larger student waiting areas and "Stand-back" lines at crosswalks
- Photo speed camera vans
- Pavement stencils placing the word "SCHOOL" on the street
- In-pavement crosswalk flashing lights
- Pedestrian safety islands

Arizona makes the 15 mph school zones "zero-tolerance zones," which means motorists can be cited if they are caught going even a few miles over the speed limit.

Enforcement is the most aggressive during the beginning weeks of a school year and during the hours just before classes begin or after the end of the school day. Those are typically the times when the area around the school is a busy and crowded.

While the Safe Routes to Schools Program was designed to keep children safe, the rules also protect schools' faculty members, staff, cafeteria workers, crossing guards and other adults in the school zone.

Fines for violating a school zone speed limit can be costly, but some people don't understand school zones. Here are some things motorists need to know:

- If someone is walking in a school zone crosswalk, the motorist must wait until the person is completely out of it before proceeding.
- It is never "reasonable or prudent" to go faster than 15 mph in a marked 15 mph school zone.
- Once the motorist has passed the marked school zone crosswalk, he or she may accelerate to the normal speed for that street.

[SCF Arizona](#) is the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance, providing coverage to nearly 70 percent of the market and insuring more than 57,000 Arizona businesses.