



RAYMOND L. PHILO  
Chief of Police

# NEW HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

AND

## GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES



DAVID J. SWARTS  
Chair

April 23, 2009

### PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday April 23, 2009, was "Operation Safe Stop" day throughout New York State. The New Hartford Police Department joined many other law enforcement agencies throughout the State in "Operation Safe Stop". "Operation Safe Stop" is a traffic safety program addressing School Bus safety, with it's emphasis placed on educating the public of the dangers of passing stopped school buses, and enforcing those laws that protect our students. It is hoped that with this press release we can alert the public to the dangers of passing stopped school buses and remind the public of our continuing enforcement efforts. We want to emphasize that it is imperative for the safety of our children that motorists be especially cautious in School areas, obeying the special school zone speed limits, and being prepared to stop for school buses loading and unloading children on either side of the road.

The New Hartford Police Department participated in "Operation Safe Stop" by having Officers assigned to follow school buses looking for vehicles passing stopped school buses. Officers ticketed two motorists for passing stopped school busses that had their red stoplights activated. In addition, one motorist was ticketed for passing a school bus on the right as it was coming to a stop in front of Myles Elementary School on Clinton Road.

Some motorists continue to place our children at risk by violating the special "School Zone" speed limits that are in place during the school day. New Hartford Officers ran radar in school speed zones and twenty one speeding tickets were issued to drivers who violated the posted school speed zones. Another motorist was ticketed for passing a stop sign while entering the parking lot of Perry Junior High School. The total number of tickets issued this year was less than what was issued last year. This is encouraging news. These statistics indicate an increased awareness among motorists driving among school busses and in proximity to school premises.

Every year in New York State school children are injured and killed by motorists who fail to obey the law and use due care in School speed zones and among stopped school buses. An estimated 50,000 motorists illegally pass New York State school buses every day. In New York State, between 2002 and 2006, 188 pedestrians under the age of 19 were injured and 2 were killed, by motorists passing stopped school buses. The New Hartford Police Department is dedicated to doing everything in it's power to prevent these tragic deaths and injuries from happening in our jurisdiction.

Our enforcement efforts will continue throughout the remaining school year and we again ask that all motorists please slow down and be especially alert while driving where children are walking. Expect children to do the unexpected and when you see a school bus, be prepared to stop. We all need to work together to keep our children safe. We will be doing our part, hopefully the public will do theirs.

This press release was written and sent by Lieutenant Timothy O'Neill, if you have any questions contact the Lieutenant at 733-6666.