

# News Release

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September 11, 2013  
For Immediate Release

**NOTE: Results news conference at [10:45 am](#) in front of Montrose School.**

## **THIRD ANNUAL SCHOOL ZONE ASSESSMENT ILLUSTRATES WHY LOWER SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS ARE NECESSARY**

*CAA spots 1679 examples of risky behaviour in just over an hour*

Results from the third annual CAA School Zone Safety Assessment are once again conclusive: while there are many motorists going out of their way to drive safely in school zones, a large number of motorists are still taking risks on the road.

"We've all heard the term 'drive for the conditions'", said Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. "That doesn't just mean when it's raining or snowing. It also means when you're passing a school zone and children are visible, as they were today at the three schools we observed."

Mager said even though school has only been back one week, bad driving habits have re-emerged.

"We know that driving too fast for conditions continues to be a problem in school zones, that's why we're pleased the province is about to pass legislation, allowing municipalities to set lower speed limits in school zones," Mager said. "But this morning we also saw motorists ignoring the stop lines, running red lights, changing lanes without signaling and we witnessed dozens of distracted drivers talking, texting and worse behind the wheel."

CAA Manitoba posted teams of road safety experts near three elementary schools: Montrose, Pacific Junction and Polson. Teams were comprised of CAA School Safety Patrol Staff, Members of the Winnipeg Police Traffic unit, the Manitoba School Boards Association and teachers and parents from each of the schools assessed. In total 1679 infractions and examples of risky behaviour were recorded.

In addition to speeding, the most common infractions included:

- **Distracted driving** - We spotted 146 instances. Most were texting and talking, but some were eating and at least one was putting on makeup in the school zone.
- **Failing to stop at a stop line** – 678 cars failed to stop at a crosswalk or stop sign. This was the largest infraction of the day. This includes 5 examples of cars proceeding before a child finishes crossing the street
- **Failing to obey road signs** – 42 instances of motorists making illegal turns when outside of the designated times those turns are allowed.
- **Changing lanes illegally** – 103 instances of motorists changing lanes without signaling or changing in the middle of an intersection.



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Mager said even though many of these examples of risky behaviour aren't illegal, they are still dangerous. He also indicated the examples of risky behaviors did increase over last year, but that cannot be attributed to a decrease in school zone safety overall.

“What these results tell us is that motorists are taking chances in the number one place they should be as careful as possible: school zones.”

## Other unusual instances we spotted

- One driver pulled over going 77 on a 50
- Texting at a red light. When the light turned green, he proceeded forward but never looked up.
- Five school busses not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign. One school bus ran a red light
- A child, no older than two-years-old, riding in the front seat, no booster seat
- Dozens of bikes not only failing to signal, but completely disregarding stop signs all together – even when cars are stopped.
- Dozens of kids on bikes not wearing helmets

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