

## **ROLES AND DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES**

### **SCHOOL BUSES/HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS**

The California Vehicle Code requires school districts to develop and adopt policies with procedures for the operation of school buses when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility to 200 feet or less.

School bus drivers have the discretionary authority to discontinue home-to-school, or any activity trips, if conditions become unsafe when visibility is reduced. If, in the opinion of the bus driver, conditions are so hazardous that the safe operation of the bus is not possible, the driver shall pull off the roadway and, if possible, onto the shoulder of the road.

Driver instructors will be responsible to help driver's recognize the 200-foot limit.

If the driver is unsure that there is adequate visibility to drive the bus safely, the driver will:

1. Reduce speed
2. Increase following distance
3. Call dispatch to inform them of the concern and to notify the school that the route or trip will be delayed

If a driver must stop the bus, the driver will look for a location approximately ten feet off of the roadway. With headlights off and hazard lights on, the driver shall erect the warning reflectors and place them on the roadway in the appropriate fashion for added visibility. The driver will turn off the hazard lights and the clearance lights. Lights are turned off to prevent other drivers from being attracted and following those lights.

When the driver has notified dispatch of the poor visibility conditions, dispatch will send, if available, an instructor or supervisor to further assist the driver and other drivers at the location of the poor visibility.

In poor visibility conditions, the students shall remain on the bus under the direction and supervision of the driver.

### **LEGAL REFERENCES**

#### **CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE**

34501.5