

SUMMARY OF FATALITIES INVOLVING FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES DURING THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR (to date)

MARION

(9/23/08)

The school bus had stopped on U.S. 301 in Citra to let three or four students step off. Suddenly, students from North Marion high and middle schools were knocked around or thrown to the floor. A semi had struck the bus from behind. The vehicles lurched forward and erupted in flames.

Despite the students' courage, and the bravery of bystanders who rushed in to help, the crash claimed one life. Frances Margay Schee, 13, a North Marion Middle student died. Nine people were taken to area hospitals, including two students with critical injuries.

The driver of the semi was taken to the Medical Center with head injuries, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. This was the first student fatality ever in a school bus accident in Marion County, district officials said.

OKALOOSA

(10/14/08)

A school bus crashed about 5:30 pm (Central) on US 98. The bus was legally stopped when an SUV driver ran into the back end of it. No children were injured, but the SUV driver was killed. The bus was stopping on US98 in Ft. Walton Beach, when the male, adult driver of the small SUV rammed it from behind, with no apparent braking. The bus was slowing with its amber flashing student lights activated. There were about 15-20 kids on the bus, none injured. The bus served Bruner Middle School and most of the students were picked up from the site and taken home by their parents, others were placed on another bus. The school bus driver was drug and alcohol tested, as required by federal law in any accident involving a fatality.

BROWARD

(12/2/08)

A Broward County school bus hit a 35 year old male pedestrian. The pedestrian was fatally injured. It occurred at 5:10 p.m.. The bus, serving Route 2067 was serving Anderson High School and there were about 60 students on board, none of whom were injured.

The bus apparently had a green light and turned left onto SR7, striking the pedestrian who was in the crosswalk. The driver was a male driver in his 50's who was relatively new, but according to the district, was fully trained and qualified. Per federal law, the driver submitted a specimen for drug testing and a

Source: News reports and preliminary information supplied to the Florida Department of Education. Some aspects of this summary may not have been verified. It is not intended to substitute for final crash reports and other official, published information.

breath sample for alcohol testing and there is no initial indication of alcohol or illegal drug use.

PINELLAS

(1/19/09)

A St. Petersburg High School student who jumped out of the back of a moving school bus on January 14, 2009, died of his injuries on January 19, 2009..

Police stated that he and other students on the bus were being rowdy that afternoon after he had thrown a water bottle through a bus window at another student. They were so rowdy that the bus driver decided to turn around and head back to campus. But the high school senior, feared getting in trouble at school, police said, and told other students he was getting off the bus. He opened the rear emergency exit door and jumped out before the driver could stop. The student fell onto the road and cracked his skull in the fall.

St. Petersburg High principal Al Bennett told the St. Petersburg Times after the incident that driver Kurt Kane was not at fault.

BAY

(1/22/09)

A bicyclist, a white male, pulled into the path of a school bus during the afternoon route on January 22, 2009. The impact threw him clear of the bus, but his injuries turned out to be fatal. The bike itself was pinned under the bus.

The bus was an International, capacity 65 passengers. There were four students aboard who attended Rosewald Middle School and they were not injured. The bus driver was not cited but was drug tested.