

Greetings,

***Are your community rescue services prepared and properly trained in the event of a catastrophic bus crash?***

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and disability. Surviving a motor vehicle crash is dependent on the severity of the crash and the injuries incurred, but it is also linked to the response time by skilled rescue teams and a well-coordinated trauma care system.

The recent Huntsville, Alabama school bus crash that nose dived 30 feet below an overpass made me stop and reflect on bus crashes in our own state. For example: A tractor trailer in **Rosendale** came out of the fog smashing into the car, shoving it under the school bus and plowing into the back of the bus killing 5 and injuring 11 children...A driver in **Green Bay** carrying 39 students drives into the path of a semi truck and all the children were rushed to three hospitals...A van crossing the center line in the town of **Ixon** crashed into a school bus carrying an elderly group, killing 4 passengers and injuring 19...A motorcoach carrying **Chippewa Falls** School students and their chaperones home from a band competition collided with a semi truck killing 5 and injuring 29...teen dies after crash with school bus in **New Berlin** ...tour bus overturned in **Oak Creek**, 15 people were injured and two were seriously injured...bus versus truck crash in **Waupun** kills 1 and injures 8...A deadly bus crash in **Waupaca** County killed two people and injured more than 30 when a SUV collided with a tour bus which rolled on its side into a ditch...A tractor trailer in **Plainfield** smashed into the rear of a school bus and tore open the back of the bus, injuring 6 children and both drivers who were taken to the hospital...the list of tragic bus crashes goes on and on.



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You would expect the rescuers who arrive on the scene to be trained and educated on vehicle extrication. Sadly, this is not the case. There is NO certification or standard extrication training for rescuers in the event of a school bus or motorcoach vehicle crash. The current “get them out any way you can” is unacceptable. This is not what I want for you, my family, friends or myself. Removal of entrapped victims by inexperienced or undertrained rescue personnel can result in delays and quick access to treatment; thereby reducing survivability. In 2001, I sent a letter to the former state representative, **Marc Duff** (<http://www.besafeinc.org/motorcoach.htm>), addressing the need for rescuers to be properly trained to rescue victims from bus crashes. To date, nothing has been done to improve the situation and Wisconsin citizens, traveling by mass transit vehicles, continue to be at risk on our roadways.

According to the U. S. Department of Transportation, the current National Standard Curriculum for EMT’s does not include mass transit vehicle extrication training. On the local level, the Wisconsin Administrative Code requires that all firefighters be trained to meet the minimum standard which is called “Firefighter 1”. At this level, the subject of extrication is never addressed. “Firefighter 2”

training consists of three hours devoted to hands-on automobile extrication training with NO training for school bus or motorcoach crashes. Thus, firefighters in Wisconsin are allowed by law to perform all duties including motorcoach or school bus rescue without being formally trained or certified. It is inconceivable to think that in today's society, rescuers are performing life saving vehicle extrications without a formal certification program in place. Emergency personnel must be properly trained to save those precious seconds that can mean the difference between life and death.



*Rescuers prepare for roof flap.*



*Rescuer performs roof flap.*



*End result...Safe And Fast Extrication performed successfully by SAFE's trained rescuers.*

**SAFE** provides rescuers with knowledge and skills to remove entrapped victims from vehicles safely and efficiently preventing death and disability that results from improper or prolonged extrication rescues. **SAFE** needs your help! Until the mission of **Safe And Fast Extrication** is implemented fully, victims of vehicle crashes will continue to suffer.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to **SAFE** by completing the attached "Make A Donation" form. Please forward this message on to others who you may think would be genuinely interested in protecting lives on our roadways. You can help make the difference and together we can save more lives...maybe even your own.

Your support is critical.

**BE SAFE!**

Sincerely,



John Olshanski  
Executive Director  
**Safe And Fast Extrication Inc.**

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**Safe And Fast Extrication, Inc.**

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**SAFE is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization**

**S**AFE  
**A**ND  
**F**AST  
**E**XTRICATION, Inc.



**YES!! I'll help make a difference in the lives of crash victims by supporting **SAFE**.**

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation in the form of a check or money order in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to you).**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your check/money order to:   **S**afe **A**nd **F**ast **E**xtrication, Inc.  
P. O. Box 510526  
New Berlin, WI 53151**

**Thank you for your support and generosity. If you would like more information or have any questions regarding **SAFE**, please contact John Olshanski at 414-526-3113.**

**Thank you and **BE SAFE!****

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