Schoolbus Safety — Winter Weather and Adverse Conditions Stats and Facts

FACTS

- 1. Reduced Traction: Snow, ice, and slush decrease tire grip, increasing the risk of skidding and accidents.
- 2. **Decreased Visibility:** Heavy snowfall and fog can obscure the road, pedestrians, and other vehicles, making navigation hazardous.
- Extended Braking Distances: Slippery roads require longer stopping distances, challenging drivers to maintain safe following intervals.
- 4. Mechanical Failures: Cold temperatures can affect bus components, such as batteries and braking systems, potentially leading to breakdowns.
- 5. **Route Obstructions:** Accumulated snow and ice may block roads or create obstacles, necessitating detours and increasing travel time.
- 6. Passenger Safety Concerns: Icy conditions heighten the risk of slips and falls for students boarding or alighting from the bus.

STATS

- Approximately 24% of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy, slushy, or icy pavement, and 15% happen during snowfall or sleet.
- Between 2013 and 2022, there were 1,082 fatalities and approximately 132,000 injuries resulting from school busrelated crashes. While not all are due to winter conditions, adverse weather significantly contributes to these incidents.
- Approximately 25% of vehicle crashes are attributed to

- adverse weather conditions, including snow and ice.
- In 2021, there were 104 fatalities related to school bus incidents, with winter conditions contributing to a portion of these accidents.
- Adverse weather conditions, such as snowstorms and icy roads, frequently cause school bus delays or cancellations. For instance, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, transportation may be canceled if temperatures drop to -34°C or colder, as reported by Environment Canada.