

Huntsville School District reports four bus accidents this week

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- April 15, 2011

Huntsville Independent School District buses were involved in four separate bus accidents this week, although no one was injured and little damage was done, say District officials. The District had been lucky so far this year, with no bus accidents occurring in which the drivers were at fault, but it appears all four of this week's minor wrecks may have been due to driver negligence.

"The district has been so fortunate and proud this school year to have had no at-fault accidents until this week," James Ringo, Director of Transportation Services at HISD, told reporters..

'Fender bender' and railroad stop arm accident occurred in Conroe on Tuesday

Two of the accidents occurred on Tuesday in Conroe. The first was a [car accident](#) in which an HISD bus rear-ended a pickup truck at about 3:30 p.m. The incident was described as a "fender bender," and apparently caused little damage. The bus was transporting Huntsville High School band students to a contest at Caney Creek High School.

Around 4:45 p.m., an HISD bus was approaching a complicated railroad crossing. As the driver pulled up to the crossing to check for oncoming trains, the railroad stop arm came down and hit the hood of the bus. HISD spokesperson Shannon Duncan assured reporters that the bus was not in the path of the oncoming train and no passengers were in danger.

Two bus accidents in Huntsville on Wednesday and Thursday

Wednesday morning at around 7:00 a.m., an HISD school bus passed a utility truck that was parked in the direction facing traffic at the intersection of Gospel Hill and Gainous roads. As the truck was in the same lane as the bus, when the bus driver turned, the tail swing of the bus hit the trailer. The bus suffered minor damage.

The fourth bus accident occurred at about 6:45 a.m. Thursday morning. An HISD bus driver apparently backed into a car at the intersection of Old Houston Road and Highway 19.

HISD bus safety procedures will be reviewed at the next monthly training session

"Student safety is always the district's first priority above and beyond everything else," says Shannon Duncan, "and that includes when students are being transported on our buses. We are so thankful that no injuries occurred this week."

Every school bus driver working for HISD undergoes a monthly safety training, which includes such items as safe procedures at railroad crossings and prevention of car accidents. The District plans to make sure all safety procedures are reviewed at the next training session.

Source: The Huntsville Item, "[HISD reports four bus accidents](#)," April 14, 2011