

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Crossing Guard Safety

As a school crossing guard, you play an important role in the lives of children who walk and bicycle to school. Your help reassures parents and reminds drivers to yield to pedestrians. What's more, you serve as an important role model for the children you protect. Follow these safety procedures to be sure you are taking every measure to keep children – and yourself – safe at the crosswalk.

Search Pattern

Use the following search pattern for crossing a street and encourage student pedestrians to follow the same steps.

1. Stop at the curb.
2. Look left, right, then left again for traffic.
3. If you are at an intersection, look over your shoulder for vehicles turning.
4. Walk across the street at a consistent pace and continue to scan while crossing.

Two or More Guards

When there are four or more lanes, two guards are required. Each stands on the crosswalk line closest to the approaching traffic for that side of the street, between approaching traffic and students. Guards should take the following precautions.

- One guard should stop one direction of traffic, while the other controls opposite lanes.
- To coordinate signaling, the guard on the side of the street from which children are approaching makes decisions, with the second guard taking cues from the first guard.
- Guards should not cross students during a left turn signal when the “don't walk” signal flashes, and should ensure that all vehicles turning right yield.
- More than two guards may be necessary at a major intersection where children must cross two or more legs of intersection.

Signaling Traffic

The best way to alert traffic to activity at school crossings is a “stop” paddle. The proper hand signal to stop traffic requires you to raise your arm forward and toward traffic, parallel to the ground with palm and fingers flexed upward. White or bright orange gloves help attract drivers' attention.

Unsignalized Crosswalks

When a crosswalk does not have signals, it is your responsibility to determine when children cross based on gaps in traffic. Follow these guidelines:

- Stand near the curb on the side from which children are approaching.
- Stop children a safe distance from the curb. Instruct them to wait for your signal.
- Instruct children on bicycles, scooters or skateboards to dismount and cross as a pedestrian.
- Wait for a gap in traffic.
- Face the closest oncoming vehicle and make eye contact with driver.
- Walk to the center of the street with the “stop” paddle held high. If there are more than two lanes, alert additional lanes one at a time.
- Face opposite approaching traffic and make eye contact.
- Stand at the center of the street and ensure all traffic has stopped.
- Face the children and instruct them to cross and look left-right-left while proceeding across the marked crosswalk.
- Remain in the street until all students have reached the opposite curb.
- Walk back to the curb with the “stop” paddle held high the entire way. Lower it when you have reached the curb.
- Remain near the curb for the next group of children.

