



California Crossing Guard Training: Online Course Part 3

Prepared by the Safe Routes to School
Technical Assistance Resource Center

The Safe Routes to School Technical Assistance Resource Center is a program within California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the University of California, San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health, funded through a Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure award from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).



Overview

This is Part 3 of 4 California Crossing Guard Training Online Courses. The following will be covered in this section:

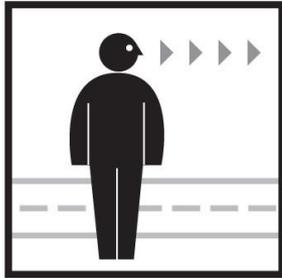
- Techniques Used in School Crossings

*****Figures in this section, except where indicated, were adapted from the Florida Department of Transportation's School Crossing Guard Training Program*****

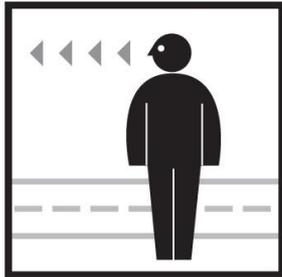
Traffic Scanning Procedure

- At an intersection, vehicles can approach a crosswalk from various directions.
- A Crossing Guard uses the **traffic scanning procedure** for crossing a street in order to gauge whether any approaching vehicles will have time to see the Crossing Guard in the crosswalk and yield.

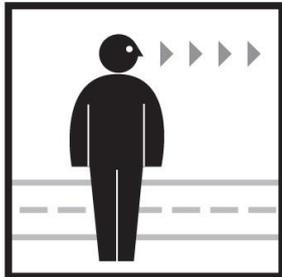
Traffic Scanning Procedure Steps



1. Stop at the curb or edge of the street.



2. Look left, right, then left again for approaching vehicles.



Source: www.parking.ttu.edu/street-smart/pedestrian

Traffic Scanning Procedure Steps

...continued

3. If standing at an intersection, look forward and behind. Scan for any vehicles that might cross your path and look over the appropriate shoulder for any vehicles approaching from your rear that might turn across your path.

Traffic Scanning Procedure Steps

...continued

4. If the gap* seems adequate, make a final search to the left before proceeding. Vehicles on the left are on the side nearest to you.
5. When crossing the street, continue to scan for approaching vehicles.

*More instruction on determining an adequate gap in traffic should be given by the Crossing Guard Trainer in Practical Training provided by your Local Program.

Signaling to Drivers

- A Crossing Guard signals to drivers to alert them to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk, not for the purposes of directing traffic.
- While in the roadway, a Crossing Guard should never make any hand or head movement that might be interpreted by a driver as a signal to proceed.
- A Crossing Guard should maintain eye contact directly with the driver to be alerted.
- If a driver disregards the direction of a Crossing Guard, the Crossing Guard may blow a whistle.

Technique for Use of STOP Paddle on a Two-Way Street

STOP paddle displayed on both sides



1. Hold the STOP paddle shoulder-high so that one side is displayed to vehicles approaching the crosswalk on the near side of the street and the other is displayed to vehicles approaching the crosswalk on the far side of the street. Your body should not block either view of the paddle. The two faces of the paddle should remain continuously visible to vehicles approaching on the respective sides.

Technique for Use of STOP Paddle on a Two-Way Street...continued



2. The STOP paddle leads you into the crosswalk. Look directly at any drivers momentarily, turning your head as necessary.
3. Continuing to hold the STOP paddle high, look directly at any drivers, turning your head as necessary, as you approach the middle of the street.

Technique for Use of STOP Paddle on a Two-Way Street...continued



4. If a driver disregards the STOP paddle, blow your whistle. The STOP paddle should be kept raised while a Crossing Guard is in the roadway. A Crossing Guard should not switch the STOP paddle from one hand to the other or wave it about while in the roadway.

Use of Whistle for Warning

- Crossing Guards use whistles as warning devices. Excessive use can result in reduced effectiveness.
- Whether a Crossing Guard uses the whistle when stepping off the curb at a given location is at the discretion of the Local Program.
- The decision for Crossing Guards to use a whistle or not should be based on the traffic conditions and the safety of the Crossing Guards.
- Each crosswalk should be considered individually.

Use of Whistle for Warning

...continued

- If a whistle is used, it should be in the Crossing Guard's mouth when stepping into the crosswalk.
- If a driver fails to stop in response to the display of a STOP paddle, the response is for the Crossing Guard to blow one long blast on the whistle to warn the driver while looking directly at her/him and continuing to display the STOP paddle to her/him with extended arm.

Signaling to Children to Begin Crossing

"Check left, right, left when crossing the street."

- When a Crossing Guard has taken position in the roadway and is ready to initiate signaling children to cross the street, the Crossing Guard instructs children verbally and without gestures to:

- Look to the left, right, and left again vehicles approaching from either direction.
- Begin and continue crossing the street.





End of Part 3 of the 4-part California Crossing Guard Training Online Courses