
California Crossing Guard Training: Online Course Part 2

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 2 of four California Crossing Guard Training Online Courses. The following will be covered in this section:

- California Crossing Guard Training Components
- Introductory Information for Crossing Guards

California Crossing Guard Training

The information contained in the *California School Crossing Guard Training Guidelines*, online trainings, and supplemental materials is intended to:

- Support Local Program administration.
- Teach Crossing Guard candidates the proper procedures and techniques necessary to get student pedestrians across the street safely.

California Crossing Guard Training

...continued

Crossing Guard training is made up of three components:

- Online Training and Testing;
- Practical Training; and,
- Field Assessment.

California Crossing Guard Training

...continued

- Completion of each component is recommended to provide Crossing Guards with the skills and knowledge appropriate to the job.
- Upon completion of all training components, it is left to the discretion of Local Programs to determine Crossing Guards' mastery of crossing policies and procedures before assignment to a school crossing location.

Online Training and Testing

- Once the online training is completed, the Crossing Guard may be given time for questions and/or discussion with a Crossing Guard Trainer before taking the online test.
- A Crossing Guard candidate must achieve a minimum passing score of 80% in each of the four (4) parts of the online test in order to move onto practical training.

Practical Training

Practical training involves:

- Hands-on instruction from a Crossing Guard Trainer.
- Role play and simulation to practice techniques and procedures (e.g., creating gaps in traffic, safely crossing pedestrians, reporting hazards and/or emergency situations) used to get student pedestrians safely across the street.

Practical Training ...continued

- Practical training should be conducted at a crosswalk or simulated crosswalk with no children present and should cover both signalized and unsignalized intersections.

Practical Training ...continued

- Participants should play and observe all roles (i.e., student pedestrians, Crossing Guards, drivers) and practice proper crossing procedures using the STOP paddle, hand gestures, and the whistle.*

*Whether and how to use the whistle is at the discretion of the Local Program. The decision to use a whistle or not should be based on the traffic conditions and the safety of the Crossing Guard. Each crosswalk should be considered individually.

Practical Training ...continued

- At the completion of the practical training, Crossing Guards will participate in a field assessment.

Field Assessment

Field assessment involves:

- Field assessment consists of observation, training, and guidance of a Crossing Guard candidate by a Crossing Guard Trainer while in the work environment.
- Crossing Guard candidates will perform crossing duties and procedures at school crossing locations where they may be assigned while having their performance evaluated by the Crossing Guard Trainer.

Field Assessment ...continued

- During field assessment, Crossing Guard candidates should demonstrate understanding of proper crossing procedures and emergency protocols.
- Additional guidance and instruction may be provided during the field assessment and any unsafe practices should be noted and addressed.

Field Assessment ...continued

Appendix B

California Adult School Crossing Guard Field Assessment Tool			_____	_____
		Field Assessment	Field Assessment	Other
Crossing Guard Name: _____				
Employment Agency: _____				
<p>Directions: For each task performed satisfactorily, place an "S" in the appropriate area. For each task performed unsatisfactorily, place a "U" in the appropriate area. One comment or note can provide Crossing Guards additional feedback, particularly in "Unsatisfactory" area.</p> <p>Two observations are recommended, each lasting a minimum of 30 minutes at the Crossing Guard's assigned crossing location during shift hours. If the Crossing Guard performs duties during the morning and afternoon shifts, one observation will be conducted in the morning and the other in the afternoon. If the Crossing Guard performs duties during the day and night shifts, one observation will be conducted during the day and the other to receive field supervision by the Crossing Guard supervisor. Once they are observed performing a task and complete a crossing procedure, another observational assessment may be conducted.</p>				
Performance Assessment Score (S/U)		Practical Training Skills Assessment Areas	Comments	
First Observation	Second Observation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Crossing Guard is wearing the appropriate uniform (e.g., reflective vest, hat, reflective pants). 2. The Crossing Guard is using the proper equipment (e.g., reflective vest, STO Paddle, whistle, glove, etc.) as authorized by the Crossing Guard supervisor or principal. 3. The Crossing Guard uses hand signals, including school crossing signs, crosswalk markers, and traffic signals. 4. The Crossing Guard appears aware and attentive to potential hazards in the vicinity. 5. The Crossing Guard is aware of the visual safety of crossing pedestrians and vehicles. 6. The Crossing Guard is not using mobile devices during crossing behaviors (e.g., using mobile devices, headphones, portable audio players, or reading books, magazines, newspapers, etc.). 7. The Crossing Guard is correctly positioned at the edge of the road, in front of students, pedestrians, while performing duties. 8. The Crossing Guard makes eye contact with drivers as they approach the intersection and make eye contact with the roadway for maximum vehicle visibility. 9. The Crossing Guard makes sure all oncoming vehicles have stopped before allowing students/pedestrians to search for oncoming vehicles. 10. The Crossing Guard instructs students/pedestrians to cross when it is safe to do so. 11. The Crossing Guard remains in the intersection until all of the students have safely crossed the roadway. 		
Crossing Location: _____				
First On-site Observation Date:		Second On-site Observation Date:		
Time Observed: _____		Time Observed: _____		
Trainee Signature: _____		Trainee Signature: _____		
Printed Name: _____		Printed Name: _____		

- The duration of the initial field assessment is left to the discretion of Local Programs.
 - The Crossing Guard Trainer can score the Crossing Guard candidate by using the *California School Crossing Guard Field Assessment Tool* available in Appendix B of the *California School Crossing Guard Training Guidelines*.



California School Crossing Guard Field Assessment Tool

Assessment Areas:

1. The Crossing Guard is wearing the appropriate uniform authorized by the Crossing Guard Local Program.
2. The Crossing Guard is utilizing the proper equipment (e.g., retroreflective vest, STOP paddle, whistle, gloves) as authorized by the Crossing Guard Local Program.
3. The Crossing Guard demonstrates understanding of school crossing signs, crosswalk markings, and traffic signals.

California School Crossing Guard Field Assessment Tool...continued

Assessment Areas:

4. The Crossing Guard appears alert and attentive to potential hazards in or near the crossing location.
5. The Crossing Guard is attentive to the overall safety of crossing pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
6. The Crossing Guard is not engaging in any distracting behaviors (e.g., eating, drinking, using mobile devices, headphones, portable audio players, or reading books, magazines, newspapers).

California School Crossing Guard Field Assessment Tool...continued

Assessment Areas:

7. The Crossing Guard is correctly positioned at the edge of the road, in front of student pedestrians, while performing curbside assembly.
8. The Crossing Guard makes sure student pedestrians remain on the sidewalk until they are told to cross.
9. The Crossing Guard properly positions herself or himself in the roadway for maximum vehicle visibility.

California School Crossing Guard Field Assessment Tool...continued

Assessment Areas:

10. The Crossing Guard makes sure all oncoming vehicles have stopped before instructing student pedestrians to look for oncoming vehicles.
11. The Crossing Guard instructs student pedestrians to cross behind her/him.
12. The Crossing Guard remains in the intersection until all of the students have safely crossed the roadway.

Location Assignment

- It is recommended that prior to an assignment, each Crossing Guard candidate be briefed about what to expect at the crossing.
- A newly placed Crossing Guard should be observed by the Crossing Guard Trainer to ensure that the Crossing Guard has mastered crossing skills in the field.

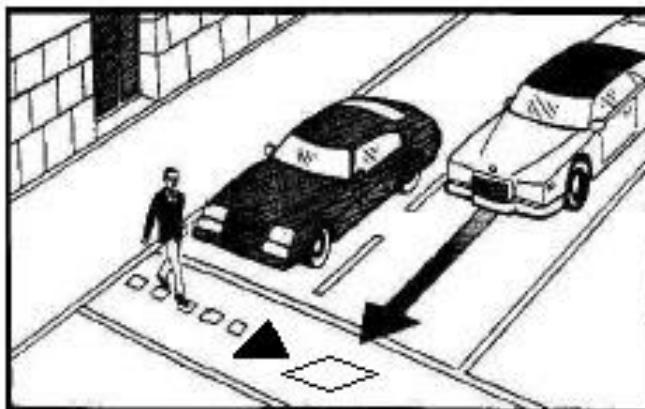
Common Traffic Hazards at Crosswalks

- Collisions between pedestrians and motor vehicles at intersections usually involve an unexpected violation of road rules by at least one of the parties (pedestrian or driver) and the subsequent failure of both parties to take appropriate action.

Common Traffic Hazards at Crosswalks ...continued

- Even when driver practice is poor, pedestrians who practice good crossing techniques can usually anticipate conflicts and avoid a collision.
- Inexperienced pedestrians sometimes assume that, if one driver stops for them at an uncontrolled crosswalk, others will too.

“Multiple-Threat” Pedestrian Crash



Source: Federal Highway Administration

- A multiple-threat crash involves a driver stopping in one lane of a multi-lane road to permit pedestrians to cross, and an oncoming vehicle (in the same direction) then hits the pedestrian who is crossing in front of the stopped vehicle.
- This crash type involves both the pedestrian and driver failing to see each other in time to avoid the collision.

Common Traffic Hazards at Crosswalks ...continued

- The visible presence of Crossing Guards crossing children in a roadway tends to improve driver behavior.
- Crossing Guards also deter improper crossings by children (e.g., darting into roadway, mid-block crossings between parked cars).

Common Traffic Hazards at Crosswalks ...continued

- Hazardous driver behaviors that may still occur at a crosswalk with a Crossing Guard present include:
 - speeding (when crosswalk use is not noticed);
 - right turn into crosswalk on green light;
 - entering crosswalk to make right turn on red light; and,
 - left turn into crosswalk on green light.



Common Traffic Hazards at Crosswalks ...continued

- Drivers who have a green light must still follow the direction of a Crossing Guard.
- The impulse to “go” may prevent the driver from noticing the presence of a Crossing Guard. In this circumstance, it is especially important that the Crossing Guard carefully scan for vehicles upon a signal turning green.

Understanding Children's Needs to Master Safe Crossing Skills

- Children have only partially acquired the knowledge, skills, and abilities that experienced pedestrians use.
- Crossing Guards should actively reinforce safe street crossing practices, coaching children to:
 - look for vehicles before crossing—
to “look left, right, and left again”, and
 - at a corner, to look over the shoulder for turning vehicles.

Understanding Children's Needs to Master Safe Crossing Skills ...continued

Children in traffic:

- can be impulsive;
- have limited peripheral vision and ability to locate relevant sound sources;
- have poor ability to assess vehicular approach speeds and gaps in traffic;
- are shorter and easily blocked from view by cars;
- are likely to assume that if one driver stops for them, the coast is clear; and,
- are likely to consider simply running across a road as a viable crossing strategy.

Procedures for Crossing Guards from the CAMUTCD

CAMUTCD Section 7D.05:

- *Adult crossing guards shall not direct traffic in the usual law enforcement regulatory sense.*
- *In the control of traffic, they shall pick opportune times to create a sufficient gap* in the traffic flow. At these times, they shall stand in the roadway to indicate that pedestrians are about to use or are using the crosswalk, and that all vehicular traffic must stop.*
- *Adult crossing guards shall use a STOP paddle. The STOP paddle shall be the primary hand-signaling device.*

***How to create a gap in traffic should be covered by the Crossing Guard Trainer in Practical Training.**

Understanding Applicable Regulations

Training

- California Vehicle Code (CVC) includes rules that pertain to adult crossing guards, right-of-way at crosswalks, and parking or stopping at or near crosswalks.
- Although drivers do not always comply with these rules, and Crossing Guards should not depend on them to do so, Crossing Guards should understand the legal basis that supports school crossings.

Understanding Applicable Regulations ...continued

Traffic

CVC Section 2815 summary:

- A person is guilty of an infraction if they disregard any traffic signal or direction given by an adult school crossing guard.

Understanding Applicable Regulations ...continued

Traffic

CVC Section 21950 summary:

- A driver shall yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway.
- No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb and walk or run into the path of an approaching vehicle that could constitute an immediate hazard.
- No pedestrian may unnecessarily stop or delay traffic.
- A driver approaching a pedestrian shall exercise all due care and shall reduce the speed of the vehicle as necessary to safeguard the safety of the pedestrian.

Understanding Applicable Regulations ...continued

Traffic

CVC Section 21970 summary:

- No person may stop a vehicle unnecessarily in a manner that causes the vehicle to block a marked or unmarked crosswalk or sidewalk.

Understanding Traffic Signals at Crosswalks

Crossing Guards should know the meaning of the following signs:



- Indicates that the pedestrian may “WALK” or start to cross by entering the roadway.



- Indicates to the pedestrian “DON’T WALK” or do not enter the roadway.

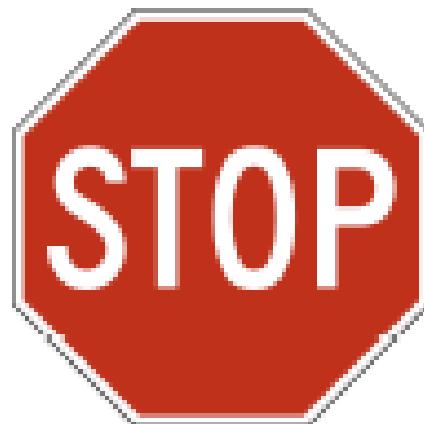
Familiarity with School Area Signs and Pavement Markings

- Crossing Guards should be familiar with the signs and pavement markings used at and on approaches to their assigned crossing.
- These may include crosswalk markings, parking prohibition signs, stop signs, stop lines, pavement word markings for school areas, and school warning and speed zone signs.

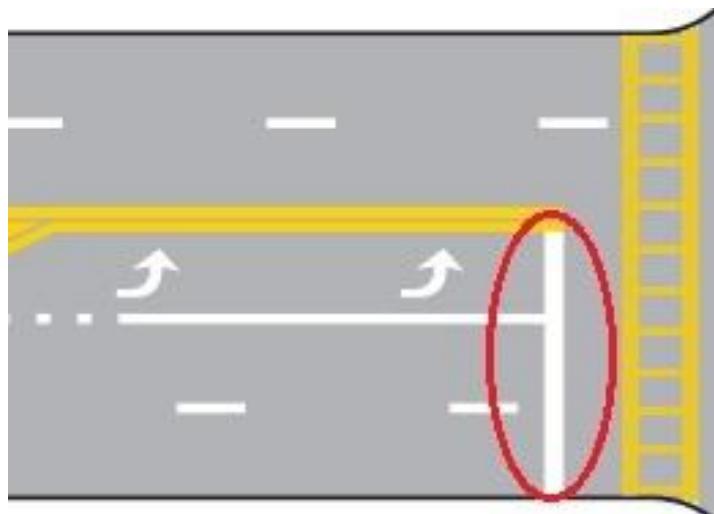
Examples of Parking Prohibition Signs



Example of a Stop Sign



Example of a Stop Line



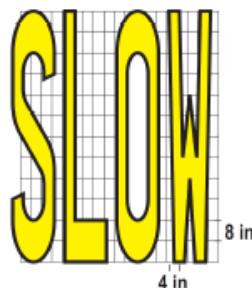
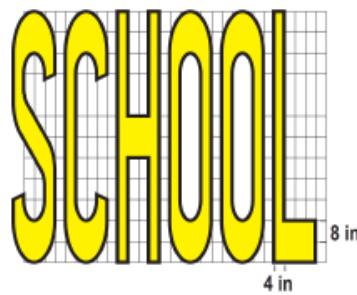
- The oval highlights the stop line. A stop line is a solid white pavement marking line extending across approach lanes to indicate the point at which a vehicular stop is to be made.

Examples of School Warning Signs



- As described in CAMUTCD, crosswalk markings near schools shall be yellow and school warning signs shall have a fluorescent yellow-green background with a black legend and border.

Example of a Pavement Word Marking



- Example of a pavement word marking for a school area without stop signs, traffic signals, or yield signs.

End of Part 2 of the 4-part California Crossing Guard Training Online Courses