

SCHOOL AREA PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

What you need to know about...



Adult School Crossing Guards

The City of Palm Springs considers pedestrian safety to be very important. Studies have shown that school-age pedestrians are the group at greatest risk. In order to minimize that risk, the City has prepared a set of maps to help educate elementary grade school children on how to reach school as safely as possible. The specific information provided in the City's Suggested Route to School Program relates to safe pedestrian habits and an exploration of how the City provides adult crossing guards. A map for each elementary school within the School District has also been developed that shows the suggested routes to school from the surrounding residential homes. The routes are designed to take advantage of adult crossing guards, stop signs and traffic signals.

WHAT STANDARDS ARE USED TO DECIDE WHERE ADULT CROSSING GUARDS ARE PROVIDED?

Adult School Crossing Guards normally are assigned at locations where official supervision of elementary school pedestrians is desirable when they crowd a public street indicated on the "Suggested Route to School," and; at least 40 elementary school pedestrians for each of any two hours daily use the crossing while going to or from school.

Adult School Crossing Guards may be used under the following conditions:

1. At controlled crossings where there is no alternative controlled crossing within 600 feet; and
 - a. Vehicular Traffic volume exceeds 350 during each of any two hours (not necessarily consecutive) in which 40 or more school pedestrians cross daily while going to or from school or;
 - b. In rural areas where the vehicular traffic volume exceeds 300 during each of any two hours (not necessarily consecutive) in which 30 or more school pedestrians cross daily while going to or from school. Whenever the critical (85 percentile) approach speed exceeds 40 m.p.h., the guidelines for rural areas should be applied.
2. At stop sign-controlled crossings: Where the vehicular traffic volume on undivided highways of four or more lanes exceeds 500 per hour during any period when the school pedestrians are going to or from school.
3. At Traffic signal-controlled crossings:
 - a. Where the number of vehicular turning movements through the school crosswalk exceeds 300 per hour while school pedestrians are going to or from school.

b. Where there are circumstances not normally presented at a signalized intersection, such as crosswalks more than 80 feet long with no intermediate refuge, or an abnormally high proportion of large commercial vehicles.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REQUESTING NEW ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS?

All requests for new adult crossing guards should be directed to the Palm Springs School District's. The District's staff can be reached at 327-1581. If the School District staff feels that the location being requested is appropriate, the District will forward the request to the City Traffic Engineer, who will arrange the collection of the data necessary to thoroughly study the location

If the standards are met for placing a crossing guard, the City Traffic Engineer forwards a request to the Police Department to budget funds to hire a new crossing guard. When the funds are budgeted, the new adult crossing guard goes into operation. If the standards for a new crossing guard are not met, the City notifies the School District that the standards were not met.

ARE ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS TRAINED

The Police Department

provides a thorough training program for all new adult crossing guards and monitors the effectiveness of all existing guards on an ongoing basis.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST THE CITY TO PROVIDE AN ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD?

Each adult crossing guard costs the City over \$5,000 per year. There is very limited funding for providing crossing guards, and the City is very careful in deciding where and for what hours adult crossing guards can be provided. The hours of adult crossing guard operation are based on the number of school-age pedestrians crossing the street at that location.

HOW DOES SOMEONE APPLY TO BECOME AN ADULT CROSSING GUARD?

If you are interested in becoming a part of the City's adult crossing guard program, you should contact the Traffic Division at the Palm Springs Police Department.

OTHER TRAFFIC INFORMATION BROCHURES AVAILABLE:

- Speed Zones and
- Speed Bumps
- Stop Signs and Traffic Signals
- Marked Crosswalks
- Flashing Beacons
- Pedestrian Signals
- Traffic Signal Systems
- Left Turn Signals
- Parking Pointers
- Avoiding Parking Tickets
- Traffic Safety Tips

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, REQUESTS OR SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING TRAFFIC, PLEASE CALL THE ENGINEERING DIVISION AT 323-8253 ext. 5



"Dedicated to Safe and Efficient Traffic!"

