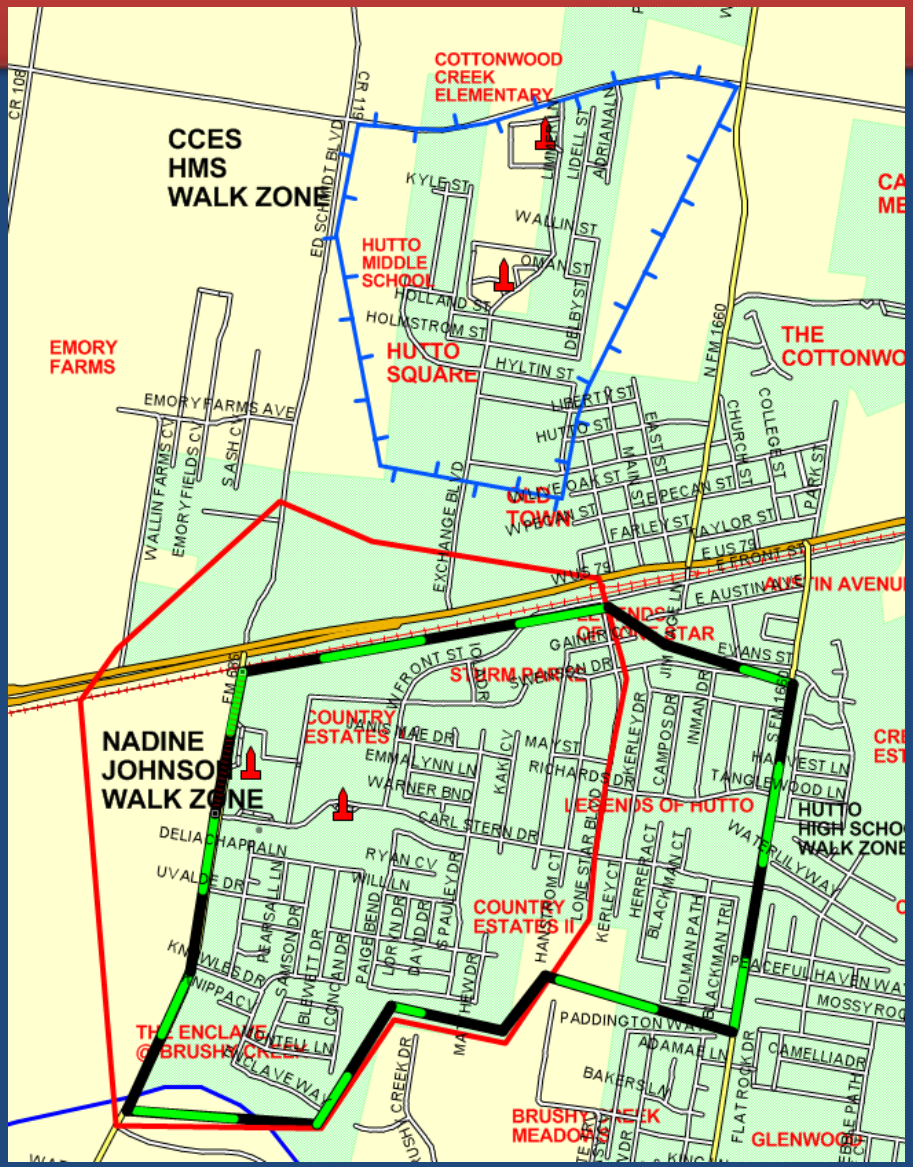
HUTTO ISD CROSSING GUARD TRAINING



WHY CROSSING GUARDS?

- Construction of sidewalks and traffic controls in residential areas create “walk zones”.
- School Board establishes walk-to-school distance. Presently 2miles along public roads.
- School Board establishes guidelines to evaluate “hazardous” zones under 2 miles from schools.
- Crossing guard locations are established along street crossings where students need help.

HUTTO ISD WALK ZONES



PLACEMENT OF CROSSING GUARDS

- **The age of the students who are crossing.**
  - Generally, younger children need more assistance than older children because they have a more difficult time judging the speed and distance of approaching vehicles and may be tempted to cross during an unsafe gap.
- **The width of the street and the number of lanes of traffic students must cross.**
  - Wide streets with multiple lanes of traffic typically require the use of two or more adult school crossing guards.

- **The sight distance at the crossing.**
  - These conditions are measured from the student's and driver's perspectives and for actual vehicle operating speeds. Sight distance can be affected by temporary obstructions, such as parked vehicles and piled snow near the crossing.
- **Safe gaps in traffic.**
  - An acceptable gap may be defined as the minimum time between vehicles that 85 percent of all groups of pedestrians waiting to cross a street will accept as adequate to cross the street, according to the Institute of Transportation Engineer's "School Trip Safety Program Guidelines."
  - If there is at least one safe gap per minute of crossing time, there may be no need for any special traffic controls. If, however, there is not at least one safe gap per minute, officials should consider using an adult crossing guard or traffic signal to create safe gaps.
- **Presence of traffic control devices, including traffic signals, signs and pavement.**
  - If present, are the traffic controls sufficient? For example, a signalized intersection at a school crossing location should have WALK/DON'T WALK signals, and a pedestrian push button may also be appropriate. Guards and students should be properly trained on traffic signals relative to safe street crossings.

- **The speed of vehicles at the crossing.**
  - Vehicles that travel faster require greater stopping distances, and younger children have more difficulty than adults judging the speed of a fast-approaching vehicle.
- **The attendance boundary and walk zone for each school.**
- **Volumes of traffic and pedestrians.**
  - Local transportation planning or engineering departments can provide or help collect these data.
- **The distance the crossing is from a school and the type of adjacent land use.**
- **Crash history of the crossing.**

CHILDREN IN TRAFFIC

- 1. Children see differently
- *The eye of the young child is capable of only two-thirds of the peripheral vision of the adult.*

- 2. Children hear differently
- *They cannot determine the source of sounds.*

- 3. Children are unaware of closure speeds
- *Children cannot judge distance and closure speeds. Practice will help.*

- 4. Children mix fantasy with reality
- *At times, children think inanimate objects, such as cars, are alive.*

- 5. Children have one-on-one focus
- *Children can only focus on one event, or thought, at a time.*

CHILDREN IN TRAFFIC

- 6. Children are spontaneous and curious
- *This may lead them to dart quickly across the street.*

- 7. Children will complete any motion they start
- *Children may not respond to new stimuli which spell danger.*

- 8. Children overestimate their abilities
- *This could affect their timing and lead to an accident.*

- 9. Children pattern their actions after others
- *Children will learn both the good and bad behaviors displayed by others.*

- 10. Children are forced to respond to an adult world
- *A child's logic may not be appropriate for an adult world.*

- 11. Children treasure near misses
- *A child may do something dangerous so that he can brag about it.*

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF CROSSING GUARDS

- The primary responsibility of an adult school crossing guard is to help children safely cross the street as they walk or bicycle to and from school.
- A well-trained adult school crossing guard can help to accomplish the following goals:
- • Discourage children from behaving unsafely near traffic, such as darting into the street without looking or crossing against a traffic signal. A guard can encourage safe behavior by all pedestrians at the school crossing.
- • Use existing gaps in traffic to help students cross safely. When the natural traffic flow does not allow enough time for children to safely cross a street, a guard may need to create gaps by stopping traffic temporarily. The guard stops traffic with hand signals or a STOP paddle, then verbally directs children to cross the street. A guard is always the first person in the street and the last person out of the street.
- • Alert motorists that pedestrians are in the process of using the school crossing. Guard's presence (visibility) tends to deter unlawful / unsafe acts by pedestrians and motorists . You are the "living school zone sign".
- • Observe and report any incidents or conditions that present a potential safety hazard to the school children or the guard.
- ***An adult school crossing guard should not direct traffic***.

SERVICE & RELIABILITY

- Crossing guards are responsible for projecting a positive public image and serving as a positive role model for children.
- Crossing guards are responsible for arriving promptly at their assigned post each day, and remaining at their post throughout their shift.
- NO CALL/NO SHOW puts students' safety and the district at a liability.

Uniforms



KNOW YOUR CORNER

- Take care to park your own vehicle so it does not obstruct visibility for approaching cars or pedestrians and does not force pedestrians to walk in an unsafe location.
- Be alert to suspicious subjects in the area, such as an occupied parked car or a vehicle that repeatedly passes the guard's location. Students may tell you about suspicious subjects. Treat this information as factual, but you should be cautious. In all these cases, notify your supervisor as soon as your shift ends. If you feel that this situation needs immediate police attention, ask a motorist to call the local police agency for assistance.
- **Remember, look for hazards at the children's level...they see an entirely different picture from 4 feet tall.**
- **Report hazards to your supervisor.**

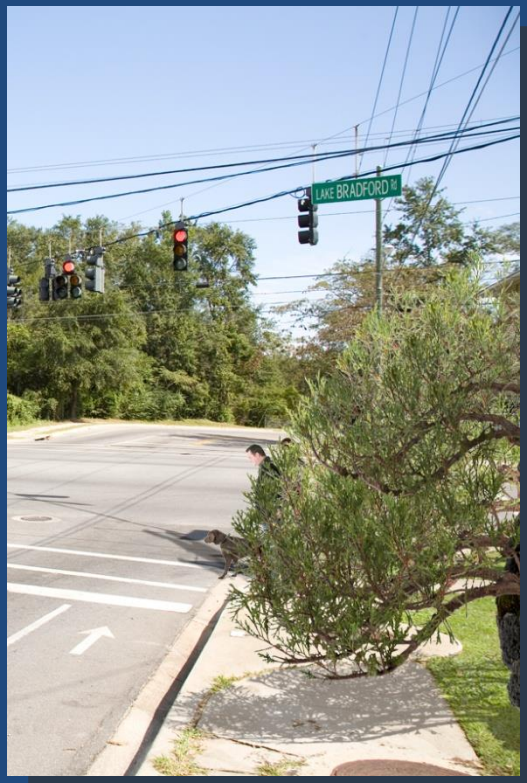
EQUIPMENT


Reflective Sigh with LED light
Reflective Gloves
Cool Hat!
STOP
Always wear
Vest over other
garments
Proper clothes
For Weather
Retro-reflecive Vest

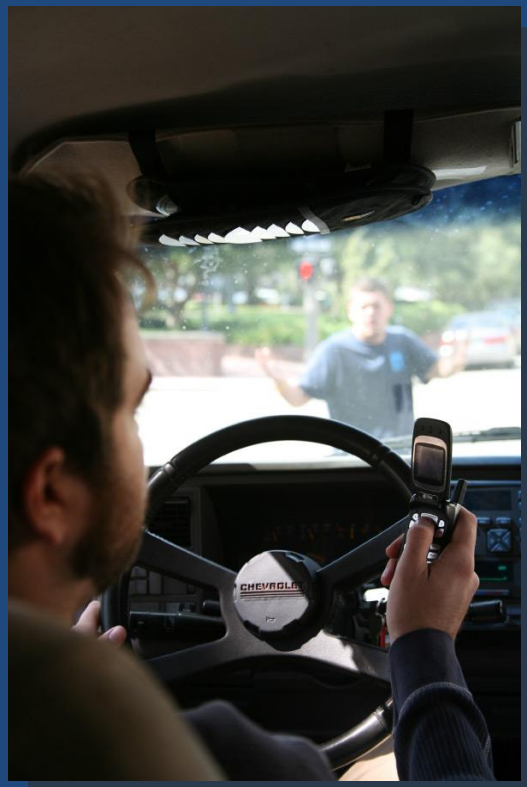
Visibility & Distractions



Visual Clutter



Visual Barriers



In-Vehicle Distractions

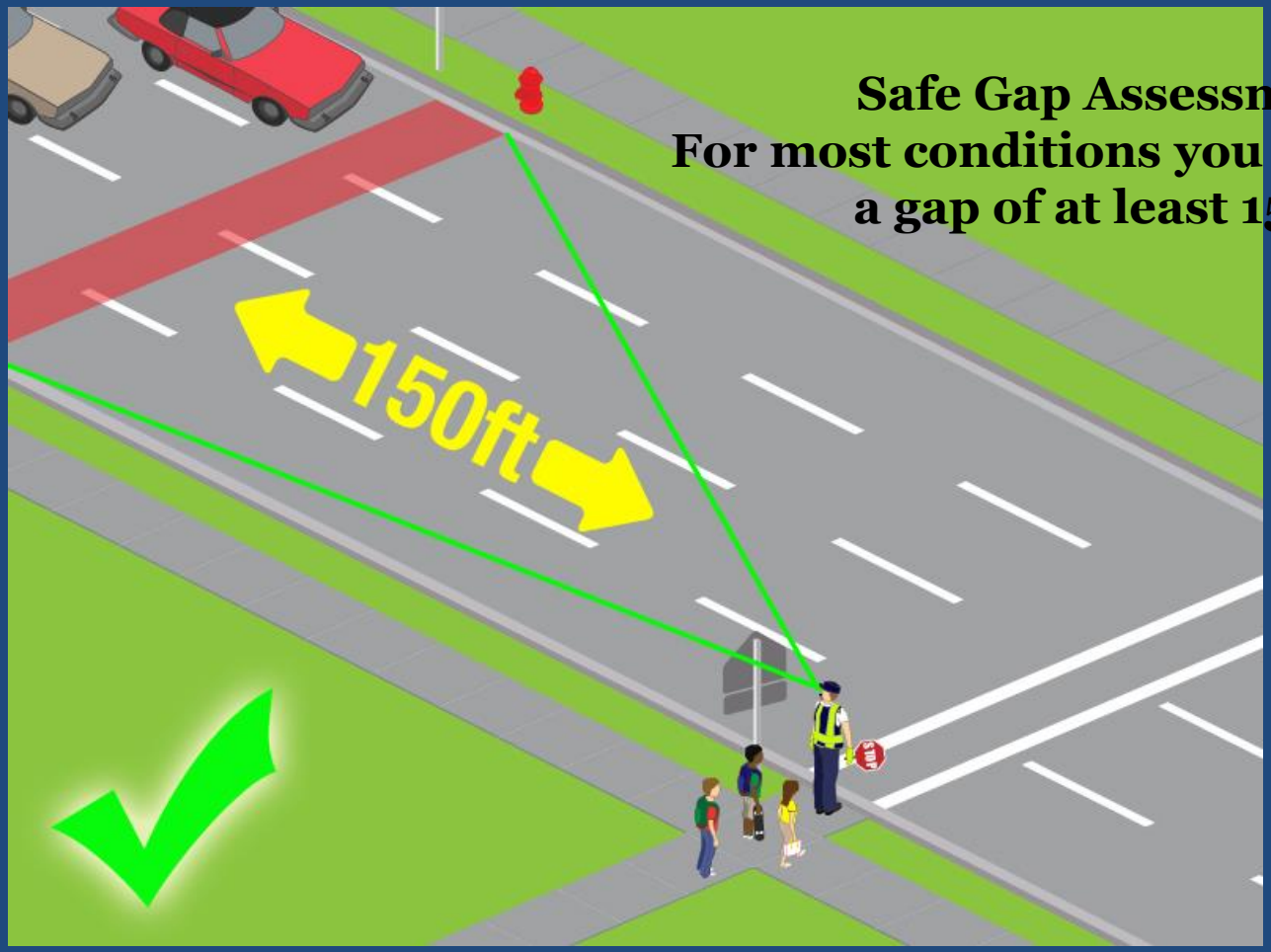
CROSSING THE STREET SAFELY

- In every situation, a guard uses the proper search pattern for crossing a street and encourages student pedestrians to follow these safety steps. This pattern is:
- 1. Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
- 2. Look left, right, then left again for traffic.
- 3. Look over the shoulder for possible turning vehicles if the pedestrian is standing at an intersection.
- 4. Walk directly across the street at a consistent pace and continue scanning the street while crossing the street.

CROSSING STUDENTS

- At unsignalized crosswalks, it is the responsibility of the crossing guard to determine when children cross based on gaps in traffic flow.
- • Stand near the curb or edge of the street, on the side from which children are approaching.
- • Stop children a safe distance back from the curb or edge of the street, or behind a "stand-back" line. Instruct children to cross only on the guard's signal.
  - "WAIT UNTIL I TELL YOU IT'S SAFE"
- • Teach children who approach a crossing on a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard to dismount and push the bicycle or scooter or carry the skateboard across the street as a pedestrian.
  - "WALK YOUR BIKE, PLEASE".

GAP ASSESSMENT



Safe Gap Assessment
For most conditions you should pick a gap of at least 150 ft

Depending on vehicle speed, pick a landmark to judge when traffic can come to a safe stop.

- A guard enters the street in the following sequence:
- 1. Wait for a gap in traffic on the guard's side of the street.
- 2. Face the closest oncoming traffic and make eye contact with the approaching drivers. Give the drivers the "yellow light" by holding your stop sign high for 3 seconds, (three steps) before entering the street!
- 3. Walk to the center of street with the STOP paddle held high with an arm raised toward traffic and parallel to the ground with the palm and fingers extended upward. A crossing guard must **always** give the visual signal to stop, even if there are no cars in the immediate vicinity or when traffic is very light.
- 4. Where there are more than two lanes, enter the street and alert the traffic one lane at a time.
- 5. Face opposite approaching traffic and make eye contact with those drivers.
- 6. Stand on the crosswalk line close to the center of the street and make sure that all traffic has stopped, including any turning vehicles.
- 7. Face the intersection.
- 8. Verbally instruct the children to cross and tell them to look left-right-left while crossing and proceed across the street within the marked crosswalk.
- 9. Do not allow any cars to cross the crosswalk until all the students have crossed.
- 10.Remain in the center of the street until the last child reaches the opposite side of the street.
- 11.Walk to the curb or edge of the street with the STOP paddle and/or stop-arm held high the entire way. When back at the curb or edge of the street, lower hand(s) and allow traffic to flow again. You can wave "bye-bye" if they don't go.
- 12.Remain near the curb or edge of the street for the next group of children to assemble.

GROUPING STUDENTS

- Try to avoid holding up traffic for too long as you may create a hazardous traffic jam as drivers become more impatient.
- Let groups of students come together and cross them all at once. You may have to "assess gaps" in the flow of students.
- Be aware of traffic pile ups and allow cars to move out of the crossing area.

When an Emergency Situation Arises

During a guard's duty, emergency situations, such as a sudden illness or an injury due to a crash, may occur near the school crossing. In the case of an emergency, a guard must stay at his or her post, keep control of the situation, and use the following basic procedure to ensure the children's safety:

- 1. Stop crossing the children.
- 2. Group the children away from the street to maintain control.
- 3. Remain at the assigned post with the children.
- 4. Ask several people to call 911.
- 5. Do not move the victim, unless the victim is in serious and immediate danger of being struck by another vehicle.
- 6. Use a vehicle to block the crash victim from traffic, if necessary. The vehicle should be positioned a distance away from the victim to provide protection from other vehicles but, if struck would not endanger the victim or rescue workers.

When an Emergency Situation Arises

- 7. Always notify the supervisor as soon as possible of any emergency that occurred.
- 8. When fire trucks, ambulances or other emergency vehicles approach the crossing with emergency lights and sirens in use, the guard keeps children out of the street and a safe distance away from the crossing until the emergency vehicles have passed.
- 9. Ideally, a guard should take a first aid short course and a CPR class offered by the Red Cross or the local Fire Department to learn the best way to respond to an emergency situation.

- **WHOM TO TALK WITH**
- You should talk to law enforcement personnel only. Do NOT talk to the media or the parties involved in the incident. You should politely refer any questions from the news media to your supervisor, giving the supervisor's name and phone number. You should CALL your supervisor immediately.

GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

- **Texas Good Samaritan Act**
- **Article 6701d, Vernon's Civil Statutes ; Chapter 74, Civil Practice and Remedies Code Section 74.001**
- **LIABILITY FOR EMERGENCY CARE**
- (a) a person who in good faith administers emergency care at the scene of an emergency or in a hospital is not liable in civil damages for an act performed during the emergency unless the act is willfully or wantonly negligent.

MANAGING BAD WEATHER







- **In lower visibility - See and Be Seen**
  - Ensure you have motorist's attention before crossing
  - Make eye contact
- **Lightning**
  - If in vicinity take shelter and advise children to do same
- **In rain conditions**
  - Increase gap distances due to slippery roads
  - Reduced motorist peripheral vision
  - Wear rain jacket for comfort with vest on outside
  - No umbrella
  - Kids will want to run to get out of the rain – make them walk
  - Increased parent pick-up traffic

SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School





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CROSSING GUARDS
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR
OWN SAFETY AS WELL AS THE
SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Dennis Bigbee: 1960

