

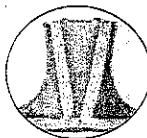
Crossing Guards *Be Seen. Be Safe.*

"It was raining really hard and visibility wasn't great, and I saw her step off the curb and I slammed on the brakes... I couldn't stop, and it went right over her."
News article quoting an SUV driver who struck and killed a crossing guard.

FROM 1993 TO 2008, 14 NJ ADULT CROSSING GUARDS WERE **KILLED** WHEN STRUCK BY MOTOR VEHICLES WHILE AT WORK. AN ADDITIONAL 121 ADULT CROSSING GUARDS SUFFERED **INJURIES** SERIOUS ENOUGH TO REQUIRE FULL DAYS AWAY FROM WORK AS A RESULT OF MOTOR VEHICLE-RELATED ACCIDENTS.

New Jersey state law mandates that crossing guards receive training* and use required personal protective equipment.
 *a minimum of two hours of classroom and 20 hours of supervised field training

Required Equipment



ANSI** Class 2 safety vest
 ** American National Standards Institute

Retroreflective 'STOP' paddle



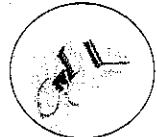
Distinctive crossing guard uniform with breast and hat badges with ID#

Useful Equipment



Retroreflective gloves

Whistle



School crossing signs




Don't Forget!

- ✓ Proceed cautiously into the crosswalk as you alert motorists to stop.
- ✓ Don't assume a vehicle will stop just because you're holding a STOP sign.
- ✓ Give vehicles more time to stop during wet and icy conditions.
- ✓ Watch out for passing or turning vehicles.
- ✓ Be aware that larger vehicles require longer distances to stop safely.
- ✓ Hold up your STOP sign until you and the children have cleared the crosswalk.
- ✓ Use hand signals for motorists and verbal signals for children.

See back for Resources.

Protect Yourself! Protect the Children!


 Chris Christie Governor Kim Guadagno Lt. Governor

Public Health Services Branch
 Consumer, Environmental and Occupational Health Service
 Environmental & Occupational Health Surveillance Program
 Phone: (609) 826-4920
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 Web site: <http://nj.gov/health/surv/face>


 Poonam Alaigh, MD, MSHCPM, FACP
 Commissioner



Resources:

- New Jersey Statutes Annotated (NJSA) 40A:9-154: Adult school crossing guards; appointment; term; revocation; qualifications; supervision and direction.
- US DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, 2009 Edition, Part 7 (http://muted.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf_index.htm). Adopted into NJ Law as per NJSA 39:4-8b.
- "Street Smart is Street Safe," a 14-minute Crossing Guard Training Video (2007), developed by the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (www.njmel.org) with the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, the New Jersey Network, the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey, and Commerce Risk Control Services.
- "Safe Crossings," Adult School Crossing Guard Training Program (2004), a publication of the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education, American Automobile Association (AAA).
- Safe Routes to School, Adult School Crossing Guard Guidelines: www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide/crossing_guard/index.cfm.
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel, ANSI 107-1999 Class 2 - including raincoats, jackets, and vests: www.ansi.org
- NJ Safe Routes to School Program, NJ Department of Transportation: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/srts>.
- NJ Safe Routes to School Resource Center, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. <http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/srts/index.php>.
- Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Project, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm>.
- Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/content/occsafheasvy_index.html
- NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, FACE Report 05NJ090, School Crossing Guard Struck and Killed by a Sport Utility Vehicle: <http://nj.gov/health/surv/documents/05nj090.pdf>.

The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, in conjunction with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), is currently conducting a research study of fatal work-related injuries. This project, known as FACE (Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), seeks to identify the factors that contribute to work-related injuries. The FACE study will help in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing injuries.

This bulletin is also available on the FACE Web site at <http://nj.gov/health/surv/face>. If you have any comments or questions, or need additional copies of this bulletin, please contact the FACE Project Coordinator at (609) 826-4920 or via e-mail at surveillance@doh.state.nj.us.



SELECTION OF ADULT CROSSING GUARDS

High standards should be set when selecting an adult crossing guard. Selection criteria should be based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for good work performance. They must understand and be able to communicate with both children and adults.

The following criteria should be considered.

- **Character:** Good character references should be obtained for each individual who is being considered for an adult crossing guard position.
- **Physical Fitness:** It is strongly recommend that each prospective crossing guard be given a basic physical examination, including physical mobility, blood pressure, vision and hearing tests. Currently, a large percentage of adult crossing guards are retired individuals who have some extra time during the day, enjoy children and want to give something back to the community. However, physical fitness and mental alertness is vital for adult crossing guards to adequately perform their duties.
- **Dependability:** School crossings where adult crossing guards are warranted require continuous supervision when children are crossing. It is important that guards assigned to these crossings be persons who can be relied upon for prompt, consistent and efficient service with a sense of responsibility for the safety of students.
- **Availability:** Whenever possible, adult crossing guards should live within walking distance of their assigned post. This allows the adult guard to be available at all times and during all types of weather conditions. This also decreases the cost of traveling to their post.

In addition to the criteria listed above, it is recommended that a criminal background check be made on each prospective crossing guard. This is very important to see if the applicant has any prior history of abusing children, or other criminal offenses. Contact your local law enforcement agency concerning the availability of performing a background check on prospective crossing guards. Also you can access the following website for a list of sex offenders in your area <http://www.city-data.com/so/New-Jersey.html>

Historically, adult crossing guards who are paid good wages, receive basic benefits and are offered training are likely to be more dependable long term employees. Subsequently, guards who are paid poor wages and receive little or no benefits are likely to be less dependable and will have a high turn-over rate. Volunteer school crossing guard programs are therefore not recommended based on these criteria.

Programs that may pay their guards above minimum wage (based on a four-hour day) typically pay for Spring Break and Holidays, have an incentive bonus at the end of the school year for not missing any time and have a "return to work" bonus for any guard who has completed a year, returned to work, and completed a second year. When adult guards are compensated well for their work, the quality of work and dedication to the job is evident.

Additional Considerations

1. If the adult guard must use a personal vehicle, it should be parked in an approved parking space and not on the sidewalk or bicycle path. If on-street parking is allowed, the vehicle should be parked at least 60 ft back from the crossing and should not block the guard's view of the approach to the intersection in any direction.
2. The adult guard should not sit down while on duty. Sitting down would block the peripheral view of the guard and give the public a poor impression of the guard. The guard also needs to be ready to act quickly in case of any unexpected event.
3. The adult guard should not use foul language or conduct activities inappropriate to the position while on duty.
4. The adult guard should not use radios or headphones (other than two-way communication radios) nor read books, magazines, newspapers or any other material. The guard needs to focus full attention on the job at hand.
5. Guards should not respond to requests or directives by school personnel, either to change or add to their duties. All requests or directives should come from the guard's supervisor.
6. The adult guard should be informed by their immediate supervisor of any school schedule changes and/or special school functions which would affect the work schedule.
7. The adult guard should report to their immediate supervisor any unusual situations. Examples are irresponsible motorists, adults harassing students, students harassing other students, or students not following the direction of the adult crossing guard.
8. The 'in street' pedestrian crossing (R1-6 or R1-6a) may be used at unsignalized school crossings. When used at a school crossing a 12" X 4" SCHOOL (S4-3) plaque may be mounted above the sign. See MUTCD section 7B.09