

Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards

Recommendations for Crossing Guard Safety

The problem:

In Massachusetts, 25 Crossing Guards were struck by vehicles from 2012-2016. Two of these accidents were fatal.

Recommendations:

1. Choose the crosswalk location carefully

A crosswalk does not automatically prevent pedestrians from being struck. The MUTCD provides these guidelines:

- First choice: Choose a location with a STOP sign when possible. MUTCD 3B.18.08 (Guidance)
- Second choice: Choose a location with a traffic light. MUTCD 3B.18.08 (Guidance)
- Crosswalks that are not at intersections require an engineering evaluation which considers pedestrian habits, road visibility, vehicle speeds, and traffic patterns. MUTCD3B.08 (Guidance)
- Crosswalks on roads with travel speeds above 40 mph should be avoided. MUTCD3B.09 (Guidance)
- Plan school walk routes to take advantage of existing STOP signs and traffic lights.
- Both fatal accidents in Massachusetts occurred outside a convenience store. Since this is a higher risk location, pedestrian beacons, lighted signs, and other traffic controls that are currently considered optional in other crosswalks may be necessary in these locations. Provide frequent traffic enforcement to reduce speeds.

2. Make the crosswalk visible

- Prohibit parking within 20 feet of crosswalk in both directions of vehicle travel. MUTCD Fig 3B.21
- Provide a high-visibility paint and pattern for crosswalk. MUTCD Fig 3B.19 and 7C.02.03 (Guidance)
- Install high-visibility "Pedestrian Crossing" signs in both directions of travel for crosswalks that are not located at a stop sign or traffic light. MUTCD 3B.18.11 (Guidance) and 7C.02.03 (Guidance)
- Pedestrian Crossing signs must be fluorescent yellow-green. MUTCD 7B.07.01 (Required)
- Traffic lights where a Crossing Guard is located should have a pedestrian signal head (Walk/Don't Walk) icons. MUTCD 4E.03 (Required)
- Pedestrian signals and flashing beacons, if installed, must be operable. MUTCD 4E.08 and 4L.03.09
- Reduction of speeds in School Zones to 20 mph is permissible, if the required signs are posted. Follow MUTCD 7B and MassMUTCD 7E-1 for requirements.

Crossing Guards must use a high-visibility clothing (ANSI Type R2) and a STOP paddle.



3. Make the Crossing Guard visible

- Wear high-visibility retro-reflective clothing which has a reflective stripe on shoulders, and a reflective stripe that completely wraps around the torso. MUTCD 7D.04.01 (Required)
- The clothing must have a label which says: MUTCD 7D.04.01 (Required)
 - ANSI 107-2004 Class 2 or Class 3;
 - ANSI 107-2015 Type R2 or Type R3.
 - Clothing manufactured after 2016 will have the new R2 and R3 label. Clothing with the old Class 2 label is still valid – replace this clothing when faded.
- Bib-style vests that do not fully wrap around the torso are not acceptable. Criss-cross style harnesses are not acceptable.
- Wear the high-visibility vest over coats, or the coat itself must be ANSI Type R2 or R3.
- Replace clothing if faded.



This ANSI Class 2 vest has reflective stripe on the shoulder, and a reflective stripe that completely wraps around the torso.

4. Follow standard procedures

- A hand-held “STOP” sign is required to alert motorists. MUTCD 7D.05.02 (Required)
- Crossing Guard should not direct traffic, such as instructing lines of traffic to turn. MUTCD 7D.05.01 (Required)
- Crossing guard should stand on sidewalk, not in road, while waiting for children.
- Wait for traffic gaps before entering crosswalk.
- Make eye contact with motorist before entering street.
- Confirm that all vehicles have stopped before entering the crosswalk.

5. Provide traffic enforcement

- Coordinate with local police to enforce speed limits near Crossing Guard locations.
- Establish a liaison contact at local police for Crossing Guards to report license plates of cars that do not stop for the Crossing Guard.
- Motorists shall not enter a marked crosswalk while a pedestrian is crossing. M.G.L.c89 §11 (Required)

6. Provide Crossing Guard training

- Training should be combination of classroom and practice drills.
- Employees should be paid for training hours.
- Supervisors should monitor performance for worker safety throughout the year.
- For training tips, see: *Safe Routes for Schools*; *Florida Crossing Guard Guide*; *Vermont Safe Routes* video; *New Jersey Crossing Guard training* video.

