



Bishop Police Department

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Press Release:

Date: May 19, 2014

Event: Crosswalk Safety

As the last few weeks of the school year approach, the Bishop Police Department would like to remind students; parents, and drivers about crosswalk safety. The police department has four crossing guards who maintain the safety of all the crosswalks on Home Street within the school zones. The crossing guards must deal with heavy amounts of pedestrian and vehicle traffic before and after school. The primary responsibility of a school crossing guard is to help children cross the street in a safe and efficient manner as the children walk to and from school. The following tips on crosswalk safety will assist drivers and pedestrians with further knowledge and understanding of the importance of listening to crossing guards.

Drivers should be attentive to all pedestrians crossing the street; small children may dart into traffic without even looking. When travelling through school areas, drivers should anticipate pedestrians and be prepared to stop. Avoid in-vehicle distractions at all times and abide by the speed limit, especially in the school speed zoned areas. Drivers need to pay attention when approaching a crosswalk area and look for the crossing guard. All crossing guards will have a red STOP paddle and will place the sign in the air while crossing the street with pedestrians. The crossing guard is the first to enter the crosswalk and the last one to leave. **Remember to slow down; be observant and patient while in crosswalk areas.**

Pedestrians, when approaching a crosswalk where there is a crossing guard present, please listen to the crossing guards instructions. All crossing guards wear safety apparel such as a retro reflective vest and use a STOP paddle. Do not follow the crossing guard into the street, when instructed to cross, always look before stepping into the roadway and make sure it is clear to cross. Walk at a steady pace within the crosswalk; avoid distracting activities and watch out for traffic while in the roadway. If you arrive to a crosswalk after a group of pedestrians has already started to cross, **do not run into the crosswalk**, wait until the next crossing and instruction from the crossing guard.

Thank you,

K. Coffman, Public Information Officer.