

**West Traffic Division
October 2020
Captain's Message**

Nationwide, October is *Pedestrian Safety Month*, which is the focus of West Traffic Division's (WTD) Traffic Education and Enforcement calendar for October. October 7 is "*National Walk to School Day*," sponsored by the National Center for Safe Routes to Schools. This is a global event that began in 1997, in which communities in over 40 countries walk or bicycle to school on the same day. Related information can be obtained at www.walkbiketoschool.org. October 18 through 24 is "*National Teen Driver Safety Week*," designated as an annual event by Congress in 2007 and held the third week of October. The Primary Message for this special event is "*5 to Drive*," which assists parents with addressing the top five teen driving issues with their teenagers. Further information is available at www.teendriversonline.org. "*National School Bus Safety Week*," sponsored by the National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT), is scheduled for October 19 through 23, and can be accessed at www.napt.org. For more information regarding traffic safety, please check out the National Highway Transportation Safety Association (NHTSA) website at www.NHTSA.org.

October is also "*National Crime Prevention Month*," sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Council, which can be accessed via <http://ncpc.org>.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

For children, Halloween is one of the most fun times, and one of the most dangerous times of the year. Please take the time to review the following safety tips, and have a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

Before Nightfall on Halloween

Plan and review with your children the route and behavior that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when revelers must return home.

Remind all drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community.

Adult partygoers should establish a designated driver.

When Trick-or-Treating

A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.

Remind Trick-or-Treaters:

- By using a flashlight, they can see and be seen by others.
- Remain on well-lit streets, and always use the sidewalk.
- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
- Always walk. Never run across a street.

- Only cross the street at corners or at established crosswalks.
- Remove any mask or item that could limit eyesight before crossing a street.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble-seeing trick-or-treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
- Stay in a group and communicate where the group will be going.
- Never cut across yards or use alleys.

The police should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

COMMUNITY AND OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of motorists and pedestrians to observe all traffic laws as described in the California Vehicle Code (CVC). It is the responsibility of the Police Department to inform the community on the importance of traffic safety and to enforce the rules of the road as described in the CVC. The combined efforts of the community and the Police Department will help ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians throughout the City.

The following California Vehicle Code (CVC) sections will be the focus for enforcing WTD's child and pedestrian safety message:

21950(a) CVC – Right-of-Way at Crosswalks: The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

21951 CVC – Vehicles Stopped for Pedestrians: When a vehicle is stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway, vehicles approaching from the rear *shall not* overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

21954(a) CVC – Pedestrians Outside Crosswalk: Every pedestrian upon a roadway, except those traveling within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles in the roadway that are near enough to constitute an immediate hazard.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to exercise due care for the safety of any pedestrian upon a roadway.

21955 CVC – Crossing Between Controlled Intersections: Pedestrians shall not cross the roadway at any place between adjacent intersections controlled by traffic control signal devices or police officers, except within a crosswalk.

21453(b) CVC – Right Turn on Red Light: A driver, after stopping for a steady circular red signal, may turn right. However, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to traffic using the cross street.

21456 CVC – Walk, Wait, or Don't Walk: (a) A pedestrian facing a "WALK" signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal, but shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that signal is first shown. (b) No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal while the "DON'T WALK" or "WAIT" or "Upraised Hand" symbol is showing.

22106 CVC – Starting Parked Vehicles or Backing: No person shall start a vehicle that is stopped, standing, or parked on a highway, nor shall any person back a vehicle on a highway until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

Encouraging family members and friends to exercise greater caution to prevent loved ones from becoming a statistic should be a joint effort throughout the country's communities.

If you have traffic safety concerns in a particular area, you may contact Community Traffic Services Unit (CTSU) at 213-473-0215 or WTD at 213-473-0222 to voice your concerns. For further information regarding CTSU, including child safety seat installations and inspections, please access the WTD Webpage at http://www.lapdonline.org/west_traffic.

The areas within Operations-West Bureau and WTD are Hollywood Area, Wilshire Area, Pacific Area, West Los Angeles Area, and Olympic Area. Any of the geographical areas' WebPages can be accessed via LAPD Online. Please check the Crime Prevention Circular for the areas that are of particular interest to you.

Traffic Tips

- * **Look both ways twice before crossing the street.**
- * **Don't drink and drive.**
- * **Don't use handheld devices such as cell phones, MP3 players or GPS units while driving.**
- * **Always wear your seatbelt and make sure your children are properly secured.**
- * **Watch out for pedestrians crossing streets in and outside of crosswalks, especially at night.**
- * **Scooter use requires increased awareness of surrounding hazards. For your safety, please follow current laws regarding the safe use of scooters.**
- * **Please slow down. Speed kills.**

Captain Brian Wendling
Commanding Officer
West Traffic Division