

## Pedestrian Safety

At some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, pedestrians were one of the few groups of road users to experience an increase in fatalities in the United States in 2015, totaling 5,376 deaths. NHTSA raises awareness of the dangers to pedestrians, and provides leadership, expertise, and resources to communities across America to reduce deaths and injuries in these crashes.

As motorists and pedestrians, we need to obey traffic laws that assure our safety. The following sections of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) have been the primary causes for the majority of pedestrian involved accidents in the City of Hesperia.

### **CVC 21461.5 Pedestrians to Obey Traffic Control Device**

It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to fail to obey any sign or signal erected or maintained to indicate or carry out the provisions of this code or any local traffic ordinance or resolution adopted pursuant to a local traffic ordinance, or to fail to obey any device erected or maintained pursuant to Section 21352.

### **CVC 21950 Right of Way at Crosswalks**

(a) 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, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) This section does not relieve a pedestrian from the duty of using due care for his or her safety. No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. No pedestrian may unnecessarily stop or delay traffic while in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

Crosswalks serve to guide pedestrians across the street. Motorists should always look out for pedestrians in the roadway and pedestrians should also take notice of approaching vehicles.

### **CVC 21954. Pedestrian Duties**

(a) Every pedestrian upon a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway so near as to constitute an immediate hazard.

### **CVC 21955 Jaywalking**

Between adjacent intersections controlled by traffic control signal devices or by police officers, pedestrians shall not cross the roadway at any place except in a crosswalk. (Enacted by Stats. 1959, Ch. 3.)

According to the web site:

[www.legal-news-california.tozerlaw.com/jaywalking\\_california.html](http://www.legal-news-california.tozerlaw.com/jaywalking_california.html)

“Jay” refers to a foolish rural person who is unfamiliar with city ways. Technically, **jaywalking** refers to a pedestrian who violates traffic regulations, particularly when crossing a street or road.

Under **California** state law, a pedestrian may generally cross a roadway anywhere along the road without **jaywalking**.

Remember, just because one vehicle stops does not ensure other vehicles will do the same.

## **CVC 21956. (a) Pedestrian on Roadways**

(a) No pedestrian may walk upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district otherwise than close to his or her left-hand edge of the roadway.

(b) A pedestrian may walk close to his or her right-hand edge of the roadway if a crosswalk or other means of safely crossing the roadway is not available or if existing traffic or other conditions would compromise the safety of a pedestrian attempting to cross the road.

Crosswalks and pedestrian signals are strategically placed throughout the City of Hesperia by the City of Hesperia Traffic Safety Office to facilitate the safe and orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrian traffic. Whenever possible it is recommended that pedestrians cross at intersections, preferably in marked crosswalks, and avoid jaywalking.

Motorists should travel at a safe speed and distance away from other vehicles, especially trucks and buses. A driver of a truck or bus has several “blind spots” around the vehicle where visibility is limited or obstructed. Pedestrians should be especially attentive and alert when walking near these large vehicles.

## **Daily Traffic Mission**

It is the responsibility of motorists and pedestrians to observe all traffic laws as described in the California Vehicle Code

The daily mission of uniformed officers is to strive to ensure the safe movement of traffic and enforce the primary collision factors that create collisions. The five causes of traffic collisions are:

- Vehicle speed violations
- Red light violations
- Right-of-way violations
- Pedestrian violations
- Driving under the influence



**Chief Hinojos**

# **Pedestrian Safety Guide**



**Hesperia School  
Police Department**