

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

Many years ago when traffic volumes were much lower than they are today, pedestrians could take their cues from the same traffic light that controlled motorists. These days, things are more complicated so pedestrian signals have been introduced to improve pedestrian safety. The following are frequently asked questions about pedestrian signals and how they operate.

Why are pedestrian signals available at some intersections and not others?

In the City of Temecula pedestrian signals are installed at locations where there is strong evidence of high volumes of foot traffic, at intersections that are aligned at odd angles and at complex intersections where special provisions must be made for pedestrians.

Shouldn't pedestrian signals be available at every intersection?

It is the City of Temecula's policy to install pedestrian signals at all traffic signals where pedestrians are permitted to cross the street.

Why are the words "WALK" and "DON'T WALK" being replaced by symbols.

Traffic engineers worldwide are moving towards the use of symbol signs in place of word signs because they are easier for people to comprehend in a shorter amount of time and easily recognized by people who cannot read English.

The City of Temecula's pedestrian signals all use the symbol sign. Here is what the symbols mean:

Walking pedestrian symbol means you may begin crossing.

A flashing upraised hand symbol means it is too late to begin crossing. Do not enter the street but finish crossing if you have already started.

A steady upraised hand symbol means pedestrians should not be in the crosswalk.

Why does the "upraised hand" symbol start flashing before I have completed crossing the street?

The flashing upraised hand is a warning to people who have not yet entered the intersection that it is too late to safely cross the street before the traffic signal changes allowing vehicles to proceed. Traffic signals are timed to allow pedestrians who have already started walking plenty of time safely cross the street.

Is it necessary for me to push a button to activate the pedestrian signal? Can't I just wait for the light to change?

Where buttons are available to pedestrians, it is because the traffic signal is timed for vehicles, not for pedestrians. If the pedestrian button is not pushed, the

pedestrian traffic signal will not be activated and the traffic signal will not provide any pedestrian timing to safely cross the street. The pedestrian push button needs to be pushed only once to activate the pedestrian signal.

Can I count on a safe crossing if I carefully follow the pedestrian signals?

The signals assign the pedestrian legal rights in the intersection. However, it is important to be cautious when crossing busy intersections.

The following suggestions are offered in the interest of safety:

- Cross intersections defensively
- When crossing the street, regardless of the availability of signals, cross as quickly as possible. Pedestrians should minimize their time in the roadway.
- Always watch for vehicles turning. You have the legal right to be in the crosswalk, but that does not protect you from the carelessness of some motorists.

**Other Traffic Information
brochures available:**

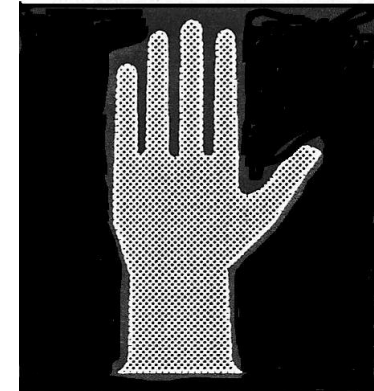
- Speed Zones
- Stop Signs and Traffic Signals
- Traffic Signal Systems
- Curb Parking Uses
- Traffic Safety Tips
- Marked Crosswalks
- What You Need To Know About Children At Play Signs
- Traffic Safety In Your Neighborhood

If you have any questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic in the City of Temecula please contact the Department of Public Works at (951) 694-6411.

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