



**NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

# **NJ PEOSH ALERT #39**



## **Safety & Health Alert**

### **PREVENTING CROSSING GUARD INJURIES AND FATALITIES**


The Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) has issued an alert to New Jersey police departments and school districts employing crossing guards, following investigations into two fatalities and five serious injuries among these workers.



#### **FOR MORE INFO:**

**HOTLINE: 800-624-1644**


**WEB: [nj.gov/labor/safetyandhealth](http://nj.gov/labor/safetyandhealth)**



#### **CONSULTATION**

 P.O. Box 953  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0953

 (609) 633-2587  
 [safetytraining@dol.nj.gov](mailto:safetytraining@dol.nj.gov)

#### **ENFORCEMENT**

 P.O. Box 386  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0386

 (609) 633-3896  
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#### **ATTENTION: LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Following recent reports and subsequent investigations of two fatalities and five serious injuries involving crossing guards across New Jersey, the Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) has published this alert directed towards police departments and school districts that employ public workers as crossing guards. The purpose is to ensure that the following safety measures are in place:

- **Crossing guards shall be provided with ANSI 107/207 compliant high-visibility attire;**
  - o Required Safety Vest (ANSI 107/207)
    - » Type P (Public Safety) or Type R (Roadway) (ANSI 107)
    - » Class 2 or 3 (3 has more retroreflective material than 2) (ANSI 107)
    - » A "High Visibility Public Safety Vest" is primarily designed for law enforcement users (ANSI 207) wearing duty belts
  - o Note that if weather apparel (rain jacket) is worn over the vest, the apparel must meet ANSI 107/207 requirements.
  - o Crossing guards employed by police agencies are required to be provided with a suitable hat in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A:9-154.3. It is recommended that the hat be of a high-visibility design.



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ME**



**OFFICE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY  
AND HEALTH**



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## Safety & Health Alert

### PREVENTING CROSSING GUARD INJURIES AND FATALITIES



- **Safety-related training has been received by crossing guards;**
  - o N.J.S.A. 40A:9-154.2 requires 2 hours of classroom training and 20 hours of field training for crossing guards employed by a police department;
  - o Guards employed by a school district should receive similar training, covering topics as outlined by the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program or an equivalent curriculum;
- **Appropriate equipment such as a STOP paddle has been provided to all guards. The paddles should be:**
  - o 18" in diameter;
  - o STOP letters at least 6" tall;
  - o Reflectorized or illuminated when used in darkness;
- **Crosswalks are being inspected to ensure that roadway markings are visible and crosswalk and/or school zone-related roadway signage is being maintained, and there are no slip, trip and fall hazards.**

#### Other proactive steps that can be taken by employers include:

- Under the direction of law enforcement supervision, provide crossing guards with a whistle, which can be used to direct traffic and to alert others of their presence in an emergency.
- Ensure guards are wearing footwear that is appropriate for their duties.
- Establish a Citizens Advisory Committee that reviews traffic patterns around schools, all crossing guard posts and major walking routes. The committee could solicit input from other stakeholders with the objective of identifying hazards and then applying appropriate controls.
- Conduct job safety observations of crossing guards
- Launch a public awareness campaign highlighting the importance of crossing guard safety



#### EMPLOYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

- [njcrossingguards.org](http://njcrossingguards.org)
- [melsafetyinstitute.org/crossing-guards](http://melsafetyinstitute.org/crossing-guards)
- [nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/occupational-health-surveillance/njcrossing\\_guards.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/occupational-health-surveillance/njcrossing_guards.shtml)
- [vtc.rutgers.edu/new-jersey-crossing-guard-training-and-resources](http://vtc.rutgers.edu/new-jersey-crossing-guard-training-and-resources)

#### REQUIRED:

- Employers must report all work-related fatalities to PEOSH **within eight (8) hours**
- Employers must report all work-related in-patient hospitalizations, amputations, and losses of an eye to PEOSH **within twenty-four (24) hours.**

#### 24-HOUR PEOSH REPORTING HOTLINE:

 **(800) 624-1644**  
 **FAX: (609) 292-3749**