

PROCEDURES FOR DEAF CHILD AREA SIGNS



Purpose of Deaf Child Area Warning Sign

Deaf Child Area warning signs serve to alert drivers to the possibility of a deaf child playing in the area. This sign is important because deaf children cannot hear an approaching passenger car, school bus, or truck.

Warning signs are used when it is deemed necessary to warn drivers of existing or potentially hazardous conditions on or adjacent to a street or highway. The Texas Manual on Uniform Control Devices (MUTCD) provides guidelines and criteria for the installation of traffic control devices, including warning signs. The MUTCD does not establish any criteria for the installation of a warning sign about a deaf child. Therefore, the procedures listed herein shall constitute the basis upon which requests for the installation of this sign will be approved.

The Most Common Types of Situations Threatening Children

Children may be divided into several age groups that have related types of crashes:

- Preschool children;
- Elementary school children in kindergarten through third grade;
- Elementary school children in fourth through sixth grade.

Preschool children can at times dart out into the middle of the block chasing a ball or a friend without noticing a moving car. Drivers sometimes do not see preschoolers and back up in a driveway and strike a child on a sidewalk within that driveway.

Elementary school children ages five to nine (kindergarten through third grade) may be going to or from an ice cream truck or a stopped school bus and may be confronted with another moving vehicle. More than half of all fatalities and injuries occurring to children in kindergarten through third grade involve darting out between vehicles on residential streets.

Children in fourth through sixth grade are also susceptible to the dart out danger, the going to or from a school bus danger, but also crossing in front of a turning vehicle, dashing across an intersection (walking or on a bicycle), and even crossing a multilane roadway.

Providing a Safe Pedestrian Environment

A safe pedestrian environment may be improved by helping pedestrians who are most at risk, such as preschool and elementary school age children, and communicating with the driver through the use of proper signs. Special signs that warn motorists to be on the alert for children with sight or hearing impairments are a reasonable and inexpensive way of improving pedestrian safety.

*Source: "Walk Alert," FHWA, NHTSA, and the American Automobile Association

City Procedure for Deaf Child Area Warning Signs

A resident living within the City Limits of Denison who wishes to have a Deaf Child Area warning sign installed must submit a written request to the City Public Works Director. The written request shall contain a statement to the effect that the child is under eighteen (18) years of age and shall be signed and dated by a parent. The requestor shall renew the request every two (2) years in a written form to the City Public Works Director. All requests must be sent to the address below:

City of Denison Texas
Director of Public Works
300 W Main Street
Denison, TX. 75020

If a sign is approved, the following guidelines shall apply:

- The Deaf Child Area warning sign shall be placed in accordance with the guidelines in the MUTCD;
- The sign placement will be reviewed every two (2) years to insure that the criteria stated above still applies;
- The sign placement will be removed when the child turns eighteen (18) years old;
- The requestor of the sign shall be responsible for notifying the City Public Works Director if the child is no longer living at the address for which the signs were placed.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the City Public Works Director at 903-465-2720 x2441.