

Know Your Traffic Laws

Although Torrance has been fortunate so far this year in having no fatal accidents, the total number of accidents is about the same as in 1961, when five people were killed during the first six months.

In total number of injuries, 260 persons have been hurt in accidents so far this year, compared with 208 for the January-June period of 1961.

There has been a disregard for traffic laws by numerous pedestrians. These violations include failure to observe red signals and to obey pedestrian control devices.

Many pedestrians felt that these violations were all right as long as they used caution, and that it is lawful to cross against a red signal if there was no traffic. Some felt that these violations are not as important as those committed by drivers of cars and other vehicles.

IT IS IMPORTANT for all pedestrians to know what is required of them to obey these laws. Pedestrians expect drivers to yield the right-of-way to them, but there are times when pedestrians also must yield the right-of-way.

As defined in the California Vehicle Code, these are the rights and duties of pedestrians:

Right-of-way at Crosswalks

21950. 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.

Vehicles Stopped for Pedestrians

21951. Whenever any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

Right-of-way on Sidewalk

21952. The driver of any motor vehicle, prior to driving over or upon any sidewalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian approaching thereon.

Tunnel or Overhead Crossing

21953. Whenever any pedestrian crosses a roadway other than by means of a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing, if a pedestrian tunnel or overhead crossing serves the place where the pedestrian is crossing the roadway, such pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on the highway.

Pedestrians Outside Crosswalks

21954. (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.

(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.

Amended Ch. 1308, Stats. 1961. Effective Sept. 15, 1961. The amendment deleted "crossing" as indicated.

Crossing Between Controlled Intersections

21955. 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.

Pedestrian on Roadway

21956. No pedestrian shall walk upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district otherwise than close to his left-hand edge of the roadway.

Hitchhiking

21957. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

Intoxicated Pedestrian

21958. It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian who is intoxicated to such an extent as to create a hazard to himself or others to walk or be upon any roadway.

A summary of the accidents in Torrance for the first six months of 1961 and thus far in 1962 shows:

	Injury Accidents	Non-Injury Accidents	Fatal Accidents	Total
1961				
January	39	57	1	97
February	43	44	3	90
March	43	64	0	107
April	43	49	1	93
May	40	55	0	95
June	39	50	0	89
TOTAL	208	319	5	571
1962				
January	46	33	0	79
February	35	48	0	83
March	65	46	0	111
April	41	56	0	97
May	48	69	0	117
June—so far	25	39	0	64
TOTAL	260	291	0	551

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Marvin A. Polensky, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Polensky, 1218 El Prado, recently received a bachelor's degree from Owosso College, Owosso, Mich.

Planning to teach in a mission field, Polensky majored in psychology, education, and business administration. He had minors in social science and religion.

We give advice by the bucket, but take it by the grain.—W. R. Alger

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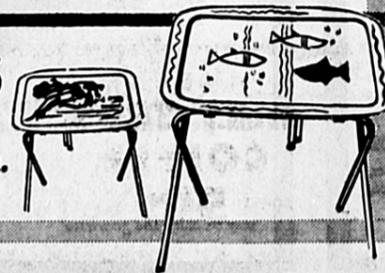
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