

## Crosswalks

### *What is a crosswalk?*

A crosswalk is the area of a roadway where pedestrians have designated right of way. Crosswalks may be “marked” or “unmarked.” Most people are familiar with the marked crosswalks that have white or yellow stripes painted on the pavement of an intersection. However, a crosswalk does not have to be marked for a pedestrian to have the right of way. If painted white or yellow lines on the pavement of an intersection do not exist, the crosswalk is considered unmarked. Under the California Vehicle Code, crosswalks exist at all intersections. They extend across the street from corner to corner, or from roadway edges designated by painted lines. Some intersections may have signs directing pedestrians not to cross. In this case it is unlawful for any pedestrian to cross at that location.



### *Are marked crosswalks safer than unmarked crosswalks?*

Studies indicate that marked crosswalks can give pedestrians a false sense of security and may even add to the number of collisions. Marked crosswalks are used to designate a location to cross where pedestrians have the right of way. It is always the responsibility of the pedestrian to check to see if it's safe to cross before entering the crosswalk.



### *Pedestrian Safety Tips*

- ✓ Always look both ways before crossing, even in a crosswalk giving you the right of way.
- ✓ Check for turning vehicles; a motorist may not see you stepping off the curb and may be behind you.
- ✓ Cross the street as quickly and as safely as possible.
- ✓ Be alert. Avoid using mobile devices during crossing.
- ✓ Avoid crossing where signs tell you it's restricted or prohibited.