

Newsletter

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Driver and Pedestrian Safety¹

Pedestrians and motorists are equally responsible for pedestrian safety. Motorist behaviors cause about half of all pedestrian-vehicle crashes and pedestrian behaviors cause the other half. Pedestrians can't do much to improve a driver's habits, just like drivers can't do anything about pedestrian behaviors. We all must take responsibility to follow the law, pay attention, and share the road. Follow the law and these safety guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Crosswalks

- Drivers must stop for crossing pedestrians at marked crosswalks and at all intersections without crosswalks or stop lights
- Pedestrians must obey traffic-control signals at all intersections that have them
- Pedestrians must obey pedestrian control signals
- Vehicles stopped for pedestrians can proceed once the pedestrian has completely crossed the lane in front of the stopped vehicle
- Pedestrians must not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is approaching and it is impossible for the driver to stop. There is no defined distance that a pedestrian must abide by before entering the crosswalk; use common sense
- When a vehicle is stopped at an intersection to allow pedestrians to cross the roadway, drivers of other vehicles approaching from the rear must not pass the stopped vehicle
- Failure to obey the law is a misdemeanor. A second violation within one year is a gross misdemeanor



Pedestrian Safety Tips

Look Before You Cross:

- Make eye contact with drivers and ensure they see you and will stop
- Clearly show your intentions to cross
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles
- Look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles before proceeding

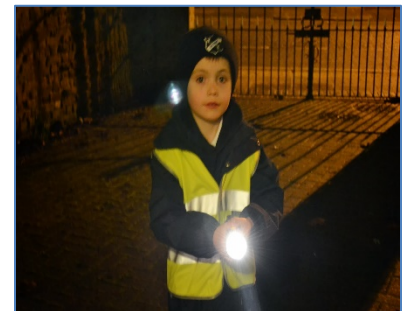


Be Visible – Make Yourself Visible to Drivers:

- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing
- “Be Sure to Be Seen” – cross in well-lit areas at night, wear bright-colored clothing and reflective material
- Mount a safety flag on a wheelchair, motorized cart, or stroller

Choose Wisely – Avoid Dangerous and Distracted Behaviors:

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections; don't cross mid block
- Remove headphones and stay off cell phones while crossing
- Obey all traffic signals
- Don't solely rely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic
- If intoxicated, don't walk without assistance—a cab ride home may be a safer option



Source: One Beginner's Place, Blog,
<http://emjay1943.blogspot.com/2014/01/night-walks.html>

¹ Pedestrians, MN Department of Transportation, accessed January 24, 2019, www.dot.state.mn.us/peds/education/index.html

Driver Safety Tips

Stop for Crossing Pedestrians:

- Stop for crossing pedestrians at every intersection, even those without crosswalks or stop lights
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians
- Leave lots of room between you and the pedestrian when stopping



Watch for Pedestrians at All Times:

- Scan the road and sides of the road ahead for pedestrians
- Look carefully behind your vehicle before backing up, especially for small children
- Watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts, who may be below eye level

Avoid Distracted and Aggressive Driving:

- Put away the cell phones, food, and make-up
- Stop for pedestrians, even when they are in the wrong or crossing mid-block
- Never pass or drive around a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians
- Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at STOP signs



Why Following These Safety Tips Are Important – Chilling Statistics

Pedestrian-Vehicle Crash Trends

- Pedestrian-vehicle crash rates are highest during morning and evening rush hours. The number of severe crashes spikes at 2 a.m.
- October is traditionally the deadliest month for pedestrians
- The majority of crashes occur at intersections – most of these at signalized intersections
- The majority of crashes occur on low-speed roadways (35 mph or less) and in urbanized areas. ***The most severe and fatal crashes disproportionately occur in rural areas compared to population size***
- ***Motorist behaviors that primarily cause pedestrian-vehicle crashes include failure to yield, inattention, and distraction***
- ***Pedestrian behaviors that primarily cause pedestrian-vehicle crashes include inattention, crossing mid-block, walking along the roadway, and ignoring signs or signals***
- About one-third of pedestrians tested in fatal crashes have high alcohol content in their bloodstreams

Pedestrian Fatalities/Injuries

- In 2015, 41 pedestrians were killed and 904 pedestrians were injured on Minnesota roads; 68% of fatalities were male
- ***Five percent of all pedestrian crashes resulted in a death – 10 times deadlier than fatal traffic crashes***
- In 2015, persons over 54 years old accounted for 44 percent of pedestrians killed and 20 percent of pedestrians injured
- In 2015, one-third of pedestrians killed that were tested had high alcohol content in their bloodstreams

Whether You're Walking or Driving, Pay Attention on the Road... It Saves Lives

