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Pedestrian Safety Tips

Drivers need to recognize the special safety needs of pedestrians, especially those that are children. Young, elderly, disabled, and intoxicated pedestrians are the most frequent victims in auto-pedestrian collisions. Generally, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections; however, regardless of the rules of the road or right-of-way, drivers are obligated to exercise great care and extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians.



What can drivers do to safely share the road with pedestrians?

- ◆ **Look out for pedestrians.** Don't let yourself be distracted. You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere. They can be very hard to see - especially in bad weather or at night.
- ◆ **Respect crosswalks.** When entering a crosswalk area, drive slowly and be prepared to stop. Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk.
- ◆ **Always watch for children.** Children are the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see. Take extra care to look out for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds, and parks.
- ◆ **Be extra cautious in school zones.** Where a warning flasher or flashers are blinking, you must stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. Always stop when directed to do so by a school crossing guard.

What can a pedestrian do to prevent pedestrian accidents?

- ◆ **Walk on the sidewalk.** Stay on the sidewalk when available and use crosswalks. Avoid walking in traffic where there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. If you have to walk on a road that does not have sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- ◆ **Walk defensively** - Be prepared for the unexpected. Don't let cars surprise you even if a motorist does something wrong like running a stop sign or red light, or making a sudden turn.
- ◆ **Cross streets at intersections whenever possible** - Look in all directions before entering the street. Be especially alert to a vehicle that may be turning right on a red signal. If there are marked crosswalks, use them but do not assume that you are completely safe in a marked crosswalk. Make sure you always look in both directions and ensure the intersection is clear or the vehicles are stopping.
- ◆ **Be careful in parking lots** - Pedestrians are supposed to have the right-of-way in parking lots but many drivers don't wait for pedestrians. Parking lots can be more hazardous than streets. On streets the direction of traffic is usually known but in parking lots vehicles might be moving in all directions, including backwards.
- ◆ **Avoid dangerous moves** - Any movement a pedestrian makes that drivers are not expecting could be dangerous. When leaving a school bus, wait a second before crossing. Don't step into traffic from between parked cars since this is a sure way of surprising drivers.

- ◆ **Keep your view of traffic clear at all times** - A pedestrian needs to be able to see vehicles around him. Don't block your view with packages, umbrellas, or other objects.

Drivers, keep your mind on your driving and the traffic around you – including pedestrian traffic. Pedestrians, remember to make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you. Crossing safely is up to both of you!

