

EVERYONE IS A PEDESTRIAN

CROSSING ADVICE FOR PEDESTRIANS

Most of us cross streets every day. We take for granted that we can cross without incident because most of the time we do, but sometimes we aren't so fortunate.

Nationally, each year about 7,000 pedestrians die and 100,000 are injured in traffic accidents. Young children and the elderly are more likely to be killed or injured in a pedestrian crash than any other group. While it's easy to blame drivers, they are not always responsible for these accidents. All too often, pedestrians are the cause of accidents. These senseless tragedies don't have to happen. You can avoid potential injuries and even death by reviewing the advice for safe street crossing.



CROSSING RULES

Always follow these steps when crossing a street:

- Before crossing, stop at the curb, edge of the road, or corner before proceeding.
- Look left-right-left and over your shoulder for turning vehicles. If it's clear, begin crossing.
- Continue to check for traffic while crossing.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS MESSAGES & MEANINGS

At intersections with traffic lights and pedestrian signals, it's important to follow the signals carefully. Wait until you see the WALK signal and follow the rules for crossing.

A **flashing DON'T WALK** signal indicates you shouldn't start to cross the street. However, if you are in the middle of the street and the DON'T WALK signal starts flashing, continue walking. You have time to complete the crossing.

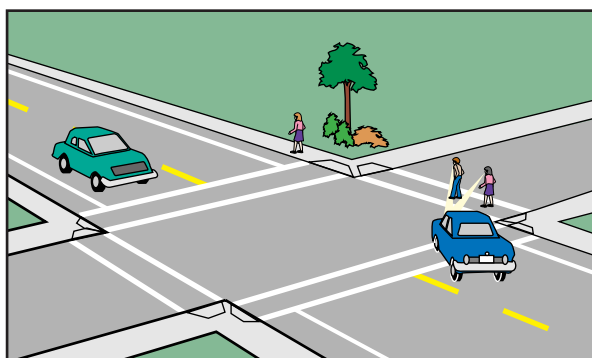
If you see a **steady DON'T WALK** signal, don't begin to cross the street! Wait for the next WALK signal.

The WALK signal and the GREEN traffic light indicate that it's your turn to cross the street, but they do **not** mean it is **safe** to cross. The WALK signal and the GREEN light mean: Look, and then if it's safe, go.

Remember to make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you. Don't take a walk signal, a green traffic light, or a driver for granted. Crossing safely is your responsibility.

THE SIGNS OF SAFETY ARE EVERYWHERE!

Most motorists are very familiar with the meaning and intent of the numerous roadside safety signs that they see every day. Out of respect for the law and the safe movement of traffic, careful drivers have learned to appreciate and obey the messages which roadside signs convey. Speed limits, regulation of traffic movement as well as warning and route guidance are all important functions of highway signing; no motorist would feel secure venturing out on the highways without these safeguards.



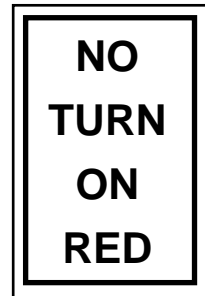
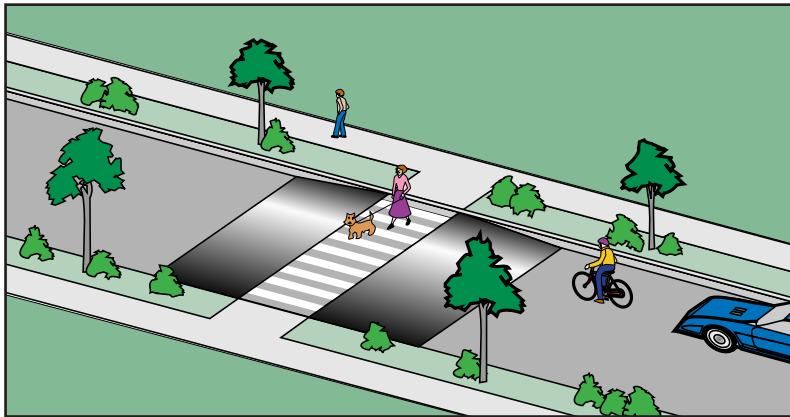
Make eye contact with drivers

We are all pedestrians at one time or another, and we are all bound to obey the traffic laws that assure the safety of all of us: pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Far too many pedestrians, however, seem to ignore the very signals, signs and pavement markings which are installed to govern the movement of all traffic. These devices are not just for someone else who may be driving a bicycle or motor vehicle - they apply to everyone. We should realize that no amount of signals, signs or pavement markings will be able to protect pedestrians if the Signs of Safety are ignored.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS ARE YOUR ROAD MAP TO A SAFE CROSSING

CROSSWALKS

While they won't protect pedestrians from oncoming traffic, crosswalks do serve to guide pedestrians across the street. Motorists are reminded to look out for and yield to pedestrians in the road when they see the bright, white lines of a crosswalk.



SELECT A SAFE PATH THROUGH WORK ZONES

Most pedestrians walk familiar routes day in and day out - between the bus stop and the office, from the office to a favorite lunch spot, and so on. But this familiarity can cause problems for inattentive pedestrians when they find themselves with a construction work zone in their path. Each year approximately 17% of all work zone fatalities are pedestrians. These needless deaths can be avoided by following work zone signs and markings.

Work zones are potentially dangerous places because so much is happening. Construction vehicles and workers often move suddenly while performing their tasks - it's up to the pedestrian to be alert and stay on the safe path through the work zone! This is why work zone traffic control devices are installed. These pavement marking and distinctive orange signs define the safe way to travel through the work area for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

WORK ZONE SAFETY TIPS

It's always safest to simply ***avoid the area***. Crossing the street before getting to the work zone, or even going a block out of your way can save you from getting muddy shoes - or even a much worse fate! If it's not practical to avoid the work zone, then be attentive and careful. It's very important to obey ***all*** work zone signs, personnel, and pavement markings.

Construction vehicles often move suddenly and quickly. Effective work zone signs and pavement markings will guide you away from danger areas, but everyone in a work zone should always be alert for moving construction vehicles and other unexpected hazards.

Watch where you're going! Construction work may be fascinating to watch, but remember that your first responsibility is to get yourself through the work zone as safely as you can. Don't be a "sidewalk superintendent" unless there's a safe vantage point, such as under a well-constructed covered sidewalk in the case of building construction.

ORANGE WORK ZONE SIGNS

These signs communicate to both drivers and pedestrians what is going on and how to travel safely through the work zone, and can indicate that a sidewalk is closed and that a detour must be taken.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Painted or taped lines on the pavement delineate vehicle travel lanes and can also indicate pedestrian paths.

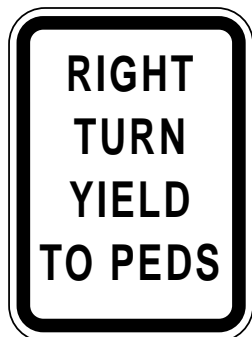
WITH RIGHT-TURNING TRAFFIC AT INTERSECTIONS, REMEMBER TO “SEE AND BE SEEN”

Right Turn On Red

Motorists drive under a lot of stress due to today’s ever increasing traffic. They often become impatient with all the slow-moving traffic. The “Right Turn On Red” law allows traffic to move through crowded intersections without adding new lanes. Those intersections with a lot of pedestrian traffic usually have “No Turn On Red” signs which prohibit these turning movements.

At intersections where Right Turn On Red is permitted, the pedestrian must always be looking for turning vehicles before stepping off the curb. As they attempt to merge with moving traffic on the crossing street, drivers will usually be looking away from the corner and toward oncoming traffic. It’s up to you in this case to be absolutely sure that any driver wishing to make a right turn see you. If you’re uncertain, just wait until the vehicle passes, then look again, and cross safely.

Don’t take “NO RIGHT TURN ON RED” signs for granted. Even when an intersection has these signs posted, you, as the pedestrian, should still make certain that motorists and bicyclists in the right turn lane see you. Don’t step off the curb without checking! Vehicle drivers make mistakes too; don’t compound their error by stepping out in front of a moving vehicle. Be patient.



A REMINDER - BE VISIBLE AFTER DARK

Night Time Visibility

With the busy schedules that so many of us keep, we often find ourselves going for a walk after dinner, when daylight starts to fade. It’s important to remember lessons we learned when we were young...about wearing bright colors or reflective materials when walking at dusk or after dark. It’s easy to carry a flashlight, or to slip a reflective wrist or leg band on to let drivers know that you’re there! It may not make a fashion statement, but it will help you walk safely when the sun goes down, and the headlights come on.