Safety Tips for Motorists

Motorists have a great duty to watch for pedestrians due to the size and speed of their vehicle.

Striking a pedestrian is a horrible event. Many drivers don't do the most simple things like slowing down, looking for pedestrians and respecting a pedestrian's right-of-way.

Motorists should obey these safety tips:

- Yield to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks. A crosswalk exists at every intersection even if it is not painted.
- Stop behind the stop bar and not in the crosswalk.
- Look for pedestrians crossing the street before making left & right turns.
- If a vehicle in the next lane has stopped at a crosswalk or intersection, you are required by law to stop too.
- Slow down in neighborhoods, around schools, and parks.
- Before crossing over a sidewalk, stop and look for pedestrians.
- Pedestrians are the road users most at risk. Do all you can to avoid hitting a pedestrian.

Common Myths

MYTH:
A pedestrian is safe in a crosswalk.

FACT:
Many pedestrians are in a crosswalk when hit by a motor vehicle. Motorists do not always look for pedestrians in crosswalks, especially when preparing to turn. A motorist may be looking for a gap in traffic, and not looking for a pedestrian crossing the street.

MYTH:
If you can see a driver, the driver can see you.

FACT:
Don't assume a driver sees you, even though it appears that he or she is looking at you. Make sure the driver sees you by stopping for you.

MYTH:
Wearing white or bright clothing at night makes you visible to drivers.

FACT:
It is difficult for drivers to see pedestrians dressed in white or bright clothing at night. The best way to be seen at night is to carry a flashlight and wear reflective clothing.

For more information contact:

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Violence & Injury Prevention Program
(801) 538-6141
http://health.utah.gov/vipp/

Or

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Highway Safety Office
(801) 957-8570
http://highwaysafety.utah.gov/

Be Pedestrian Safe

Be Pedestrian Smart

Photo courtesy of: Dan Burden / www.pedbikeimages.org

Walking is fun!

It's free and it's great exercise.

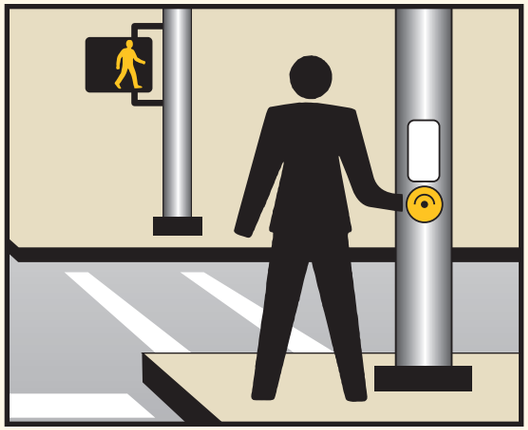
You can walk almost anywhere you want to go. However, what's not fun is getting hit by a motor vehicle while walking.

Inside you will find tips to help keep you safe while walking and tips to help drivers interact safely with pedestrians.

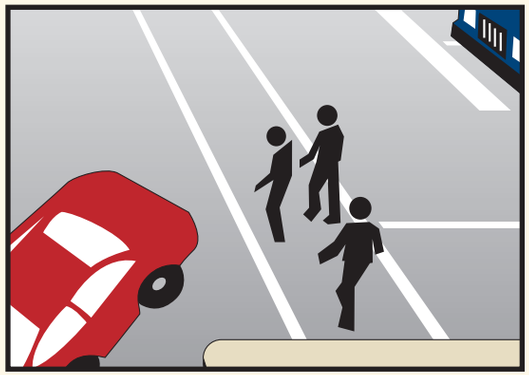
Pedestrian Safety Tips

As a pedestrian take charge of your safety by being predictable, obeying the rules of the road and following traffic signals.

- Before crossing the street, stop at the edge of the road and look left, right, & left again for traffic.
- Do not stand in the street while waiting to cross.



- Press the crosswalk button and cross when the "WALK" signal appears. Look to the left before stepping off the curb.



- Continue to look for traffic while crossing. Having a "WALK" signal and the right of way does not mean that drivers will stop for you.
- When crossing a road with several lanes and a vehicle in the closest lane has stopped for you to cross, make sure vehicles in other lanes see you and stop before proceeding into the next lane. It is easy for a pedestrian to be hidden from the view of other motorists by the vehicle that has already stopped.

- Use sidewalks where available, if there are no sidewalks, it is usually safer to walk along the road facing oncoming traffic.
- If walking after dark wear reflective clothing and use a flashlight.
- Look out for motorists entering or exiting a parking lot or driveway. Motorists are required to yield to pedestrians on the sidewalk, but many motorists do not.

Additional Information

Young Pedestrians

Why are child pedestrians at risk?

- They have difficulty judging the speed and distance of approaching vehicles.
- They have ⅓ less side-to-side vision than adults.
- Children are impulsive & unpredictable.
- Small children have a hard time seeing over bushes and other objects.
- Parents overestimate their child's ability to cross the street safely.
- Children lack experience, judgment and safety skills.

Parents & Adults

- Teach your children how to cross the street safely and be a good example. Your children learn from watching you.
- Do not assume that your children already know these skills or will be taught in school.
- Children under the age of 10 should cross the street with an adult.

Older Pedestrians

Why are older pedestrians at risk?

- Older adults are more likely to suffer serious or fatal injuries when hit.
- With age, people may experience hearing and vision loss.
- Response time can be slower.
- Depth perception decreases with age.
- Due to reduced mobility many older adults take much longer to cross the street.