



Walk Safe, Stay Alert

Walking is not only a great form of exercise; it is also a convenient and free form of transportation. As with driving, walking can have its risks and challenges. However, you can greatly increase your chances of having a safe walking trip by following the tips below.

- Use sidewalks when they are available. Sidewalks provide separation from the roadway and are constructed exclusively for non-motorized travel.
- At intersections, always use the crosswalks. Do not attempt to cross between stopped cars away from the intersection; approaching vehicles do not expect pedestrians crossing away from the intersection.
- Pedestrian signals provide guidance on the proper time to cross and not to cross intersections. Pedestrian signals convey three messages:
 - Solid Hand – Do not cross
 - Walking Man – Begin crossing, there is adequate time to completely cross the road.
 - Flashing Hand – Continue crossing if already in the crosswalk. If you have not started your crossing yet, wait for the next Walking Man signal.
- Some pedestrian signals include a countdown feature. These devices provide additional information to pedestrians related to the amount of time you have to cross the road.
- At intersections with right turn lanes, be sure that turning motorists are aware of your intentions to cross. Right turning motorists are often focused on the signals and not the pedestrian standing next to them.
- If you are walking on a roadway with no sidewalk remember to walk facing traffic, so that you can see approaching vehicles and take appropriate action if necessary.
- If you must cross the street in an area with no crosswalks or signals remember to look both ways (left-right-left) before crossing the street. Always look in the direction of the approaching vehicles for the lane you are crossing.
- When crossing the street you should always make eye contact with any stopped or approaching motorists to make sure that they see you.
- Use extra caution when crossing driveways. Turning motorists are often focused on approaching traffic and may not be aware that you are crossing the driveway.
- When walking in the evening or at night, you should always wear reflective or light colored clothing and if possible, carry a flashlight or similar device.
- It is never too early to teach your children the fundamentals of safe pedestrian behavior. Always look before crossing the street and never play in the roadway.
- If you must cross a roadway at night in an area without crosswalks and/or signals, try to cross near streetlights or other light sources so that you are visible to approaching motorists.
- Never assume that a vehicle will stop.