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is on your side

Safety Matters

Pedestrian Safety

According to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) more than 7,500 pedestrians died in a recent year due to traffic and non-traffic (in driveways, parking lots, and private property) incidents. Reduce your risk of injury or death as a pedestrian by following these tips:

- **Walk on sidewalks and cross streets at crosswalks.** Crossing streets at locations other than designated crosswalks makes you less visible to drivers, as they may not expect pedestrians in other areas.
- **Obey traffic signs and signals.** Before entering the street, look left, right, and left again. Make eye contact with drivers to acknowledge they see you before you begin crossing. A friendly wave as you begin walking acknowledges that they see you.
- **Focus on the walking task.** Stay aware of your surroundings and don't text or read cell phone messages, especially when crossing streets.
- **Hear what's going on around you.** Limit volume when wearing headphones or earbuds so you can still hear vehicle horns, emergency vehicles, and other important sounds.
- **Be seen at night.** Wear bright or reflective clothing at night. Bring a flashlight and walk facing traffic.
- **Beware of backing vehicles.** Watch for backup lights, especially cars leaving driveways or parking spots. Never assume they see you. Wait for the car to back out completely or until the driver acknowledges they are waiting on you to pass.
- **Be substance-free.** Avoid alcohol and drug use when you know you'll be walking near traffic.



Avoid distractions - focus on safe walking.



Keep music volume low - hear the sounds around you.



Use designated crosswalks.