

# Everyone is a Pedestrian

## Crossing advice for pedestrians

Most of us cross streets every day. We are all pedestrians at one time or another and 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 5,000 pedestrians die and 70,000 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.

### TIP

**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.**

## 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 for and to yield to pedestrians in the road when they see the bright, white lines of a crosswalk.