

GOT RISK?

District *Safety* Gram **PEOPLE-MISSION-SAFETY**



Pedestrian Safety

Millions of automobile accidents occur every year. A significant number of these accidents involve pedestrians. Pedestrian accidents can often become more costly and damaging than an automobile-on- automobile collision, simply because pedestrians have no crumple zone, airbags, or seatbeat to help keep them safe.

Here are just a few tips to help reduce the chances of being involved in such an accident.

How do pedestrian accidents occur?

Most accidents involving automobiles and pedestrians fall into one of these categories:

- Pedestrians running out mid-block in front of a vehicle, rather than using a proper crossing
- Running from one side of the intersection to the other
- Automobile turning from one street onto another
- Crossing a multi-lane street on foot
- Backing up vehicles (especially those without a warning system)

How can pedestrian accidents be prevented?

- Walk defensively; prepare for the unexpected. Watch for vehicles coming out of hidden or dark places. Be aware of drivers running a stop sign or red light, or making a sudden turn.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic. When there are no sidewalks, walk near the curb or off the road.
- Use intersections whenever possible. If a street must be crossed, try to use an intersection with a crossing light available. Look in all directions before entering the street. Pay particular attention to any vehicle that may be turning on a red signal.
- Marked crosswalks should always be used, but one should not assume that a marked crosswalk is completely safe. Inattentive drivers may not even notice a pedestrian in the marked area.
- Look for the sign or signals at intersections. They will assist in determining the safest time to cross.
- Use care in parking lots. The right of way is reserved for pedestrians in parking lots, but many drivers choose not to wait. Also, vehicles might be moving in all directions -- including backward. Because of this, parking lots can quickly become larger safety hazards than streets.
- Avoid dangerous moves. Any movement a pedestrian makes that drivers are not expecting could be dangerous. When exiting a vehicle, wait and look before crossing.

Step up to pedestrian safety! Be prepared! Stay alert and aware!

