

Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety



The interaction between motor vehicles and pedestrians on city streets and rural roads frequently results in serious consequences. According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, there were [7,522 pedestrian fatalities](#) in 2022.

As a professional driver, you can reduce the risk of pedestrian-vehicle collisions and enhance pedestrian safety by following these guidelines.

Start Safely

Ensure you are well-rested before driving. Get to know your vehicle, especially if you drive different models or types regularly. Familiarize yourself with your route and anticipate areas with heavy pedestrian traffic.

Remove All Distractions

Maintaining full attention is crucial for spotting pedestrians. Address tasks like adjusting the vehicle's temperature, eating, or chatting with passengers only when you are safely off the road.

Eyes Always Moving

Constantly scan for pedestrians on the street and sidewalks, emerging from driveways, getting out of vehicles, or concealed behind obstructions. Be particularly cautious of children who might be less visible.

Approach Intersections with Care

As you approach intersections, check both sides of the street, reduce speed, cover the brake, and be ready to stop if necessary. Make eye contact with pedestrians, yield the right of way, and wait for them to fully cross before proceeding.

Look multiple times before turning to ensure no pedestrians are in your blind spots. If you can't turn safely, choose an alternate route.

Don't Block Crosswalks

Blocking a crosswalk forces pedestrians into the path of moving traffic. Avoid honking or moving your vehicle forward if pedestrians are in front of you in a crosswalk.

Stay Vigilant

Pedestrian risks are high at intersections, but also remain alert in congested areas, along road shoulders, in parking lots, when exiting alleys or driveways, and while reversing.

Be extra cautious in school zones, residential areas, playgrounds, and parks, as children might run into the street unexpectedly.

Be Patient with the Elderly and Disabled

Allow extra time for seniors and individuals with physical disabilities to cross the street.

Keep your Guard Up

Stay alert around special hazards like toll booths, work zones, vehicle breakdowns, accidents, and police activities. Always exercise courtesy to pedestrians in these situations.

By staying well-rested, focused, and patient, you can significantly reduce the risk of pedestrian accidents. Your proactive approach not only enhances road safety but also reflects your commitment to protecting all road users. Every effort you make contributes to a safer environment for pedestrians.