



## Pedestrian Safety

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that on average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 113 minutes and injured in a traffic crash every 8 minutes.

There were 70,000 pedestrians injured in traffic crashes in 2007, and over 4,600 pedestrians were killed. It is also noted that Senior Citizens are accounted for 19% of all pedestrian fatalities. These numbers are staggering, and pedestrian safety is extremely important, and the City of Glendale Fire Department would like to remind everyone to be safe while driving, and to remain alert and aware of pedestrian safety.

The key to remember is to **See And Be Seen**, and be a responsible pedestrian by following some simple steps:

- **Dress to be seen by drivers.** If you walk at night, remember that wearing white or reflective clothing does not guarantee drivers can see you, and use a flashlight.
- **Don't rely only on traffic signs and signals.** Assuming that a signal will stop traffic puts you at risk. You must look for traffic even if you are in a crosswalk and you are crossing with the light or with the walk signal. A driver who does not see or obey a sign or signal may also not be paying enough attention to see you.
- **Use paths and sidewalks whenever available.** If you must walk on or near a road, remember to walk facing oncoming traffic, so that both you and the driver can see each other. If there's a smooth stable surface alongside the roadway, that's also a good place to walk—just stay as far to the side as possible and look for oncoming traffic.
- **Cars and other objects can obscure a driver's view.** Cars, buses, hedges, or mounds of construction debris can block a driver's view. Even if a driver has stopped to let you cross the street, don't blindly accept the driver's offer because there may be another vehicle in the next lane overtaking the stopped vehicle. And the second driver can't see you because of the stopped vehicle.
- **Stop and look for traffic in all directions before crossing the street, and look to the left, right, and left again—even on a one-way street.** And always look left last because that is the direction that cars will be coming from when you first step off the curb.
- **Intersections are especially difficult for older pedestrians.** You are most at risk when first stepping off the curb, because drivers may not see you until you're actually in the roadway. Don't assume the drivers see you unless they signal for you to cross.
- **Understand crosswalk signals, and whenever possible, cross the street at a designated crosswalk.**
- **Allow plenty of time to cross the streets.**

*For More Information*

[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)  
[www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov)