

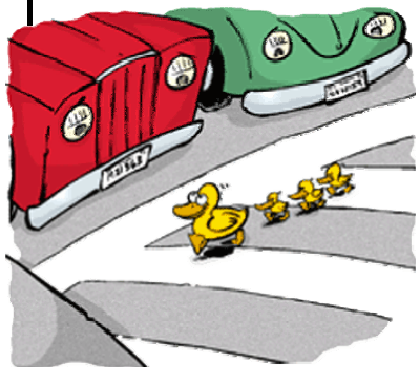
Army *Safety* Gram

Leading on the Edge for Safety *Excellence*

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Crossing Safely is Your Responsibility



Most of us cross streets every day. We take for granted that we can cross without incident, because most of the time we do. But sometimes we aren't so fortunate.

Each year about 7,000 pedestrians die and 100,000 are injured in traffic accidents. Nearly 45,000 people die in auto accidents each year in the US. About 1 in 54 is a bicyclist, that's over 800 people. A pedestrian or bicyclist is killed every 31/2 minutes. While it is easy to blame drivers, they are not always responsible for these accidents. All too often, pedestrians and cyclists are the cause of accidents.

Pedestrian and cyclist injuries and fatalities result in over \$20 billion in societal costs annually. 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 for Pedestrians

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, if it's clear, begin crossing, looking over your shoulder for turning vehicles.
- Continue to check for traffic while crossing.
- Always cross at corners, within marked crosswalks where available.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing. Watch for turning cars.
- Obey traffic signals, especially "**Walk/Don't Walk**".
- Remain alert! Don't assume that cars are going to stop.
- Wear reflective clothing when walking at night.
- Stay sober. Walking while impaired greatly increases your chances of being struck.

Traffic Signal Messages and Their Meanings

At intersections with traffic lights and pedestrian signals, it's important to follow the signals carefully. Wait until you see the **WALK** signal, following, again, the basic 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.



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. Remember, it's up to you.