

Defensive Pedestrian

Being a defensive pedestrian is as important as being a defensive driver. Never assume that a motorist is looking out for pedestrians or has spotted you in the roadway, even if you are in a crosswalk. It is recommended that you take responsibility for your safety when walking. Actively search for vehicles before crossing the street and always expect the unexpected. Because hazardous situations exist when foot traffic and vehicle traffic mix, follow these tips to help keep safe

- Before crossing a street or campus road, stop at the edge of the curb or road and look left, right and left again to make sure no traffic is coming. In heavily traveled areas, cross streets at designated crosswalks or intersections with a stop sign or traffic signal.
- Never assume that vehicles will stop according to traffic signals or obey other traffic laws. Even if you have the “walk” sign, vehicles may run the light or be turning when the light changes. In a corner or turning situation, a good tactic is to establish eye contact with the vehicle driver.
- In places where there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic so you can see approaching vehicles. Move safely off the pavement to the roadside when traffic passes.
- To be seen easily during the day, wear bright or fluorescent clothing. At night, carry a flashlight and wear light-colored clothing or clothing trimmed with retro-reflective material.

Source: Adapted with permission from “Be A Defensive Pedestrian,” Your Safety Matters, Utah Safety Council, Vol. 8, Summer 1995.

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