



Traffic Safety News

From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

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Preventing pedestrian crashes is easy if we all follow a few simple guidelines. The Office of Highway Safety is helping to educate the public about safe walking practices through the **Walk Smart** campaign.

What you need to know

Did you know that most pedestrian-related fatalities occur in low-light conditions (at dusk or dawn) or after dark? And that most involve inattentive or distracted pedestrians walking in the road or stepping into the path of a vehicle? Here are the facts that you need to know:

- In 2010 the number of pedestrians killed in traffic crashes was 22, up from 15 in 2009.
- Of the 22 pedestrians killed in 2010, 10 (or 45%) were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- The majority of pedestrian injuries happen to those over the age of 20 – this is not primarily a child focused issue.

What you can do

Ultimately, highway safety officials say solving the problem will require active participation and buy in by the motoring public and pedestrians alike.

- Motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks – but pedestrians must not step out into a crosswalk if doing so will create a hazard to the driver of the vehicle.
- Pedestrians must cross at intersections when possible – and if they're crossing outside of an intersection, they must yield the right-of-way to motorists.
- Pedestrians must not risk their safety by crossing in the middle of a roadway just because it is closer to the destination than using a crosswalk or intersection.
- Motorists have a responsibility to share the road safely and be on the lookout for pedestrians – and should actively look for pedestrians in neighborhoods, busy urban areas, busy roadways (ie: Rt. 40 or Rt. 24) and our beach towns.
- If you can't walk on a sidewalk, you must walk facing traffic...and walk as far off the edge as possible.
- When walking at night you must carry a flashlight or other reflective item – it's the law.
- Never walk or cross when under the influence of alcohol and or drugs – it's illegal.

Walk Smart. Arrive Alive DE.