



Traffic Safety News

From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

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Out of all the deaths that occurred on Delaware roadways in 2011, 1 out of every 5 was a pedestrian. And for every pedestrian killed, 15 more were injured. Most of the incidents occurred at night, and most often the driver was not at fault.

What you need to know

Preliminary data reveals that most times it is error on the part of the pedestrian that contributes to the crash. Common themes are stepping into path of vehicle in unlit areas, alcohol, crossing at areas other than intersections. Consider these facts:

- 19 pedestrians were killed in 2011.
- The majority of the victims were over the age of 30, though sadly, 2 children killed last year.

What you can do

Here are some things that you can do to be safe while you are walking:

- Cross only at crosswalks and intersections.
- Do not step into a crosswalk in the path of a vehicle that appears to still be moving quickly, even though you may have the right of way.
- Use sidewalks. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far off the edge of the road as possible.
- Carry a flashlight or other reflective item at night.
- Do not walk while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It's against the law. If you need to get home, you're safer catching a cab, bus or a ride from a friend.
- Never hitchhike.
- Remember the age old instructions of looking left, right, then left again. This good advice still holds true today!

Walk Smart. Arrive Alive DE.

This message is being sent to you from the Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov.