

November 6, 2009

Drivers and pedestrians share responsibility for safety

Edmonton... We all want to be safe when walking across the street or anywhere near traffic. November is dedicated to reminding drivers and pedestrians to work together to ensure safety on Alberta's roadways.

Pedestrians and motorists should follow these road safety tips:

Pedestrians

- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there are no sidewalks walk on the side of the road facing traffic.
- Wear bright or light-coloured clothing or reflective strips when walking in dark or low-light conditions.
- Cross safely at corners and crosswalks, and watch for traffic turning at intersections.
- Stop at the curb to show drivers you intend to cross the road. Hold your arm straight out at right angles to your body pointing across the road as a legal sign to motorists that you wish to cross the road. Point, pause and proceed.
- Look left, right and left again before proceeding to cross the road. Cross when traffic has come to a complete stop and make eye contact with drivers in each lane that you cross to ensure you are seen.

Motorists

- Obey posted speed limits. Always be prepared to slow down or stop.
- Use caution when approaching intersections or mid-block crosswalks. Allow pedestrians to cross the road before proceeding. The fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk is \$575 and four demerit points.
- Slow down around parked or stopped vehicles as they may hide a pedestrian who is crossing the road, particularly children who may dash out into the street.
- Stay alert and slow down on residential streets and through school zones; the speed limit for school and playground zones in urban and rural areas is 30 km/h unless otherwise posted.
- Watch for the school safety patrol wearing orange vests, and stop as directed. School safety patrollers play a vital role in directing children safely across the street.

As part of the Traffic Safety Plan calendar, pedestrian safety is in the spotlight in November.

For more information, contact Alberta Transportation's Office of Traffic Safety at 780-422-8839 or your regional traffic safety coordinator. To find your local coordinator, visit www.saferoads.com and click on Contact Us, then the [Regional Traffic Safety Coordinator](#) on the left-hand side.

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