



Dec. 4, 2013

For more information: Julie Yip, Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Program Manager, (503) 986-4196
or Sally Ridenour, Public Affairs, (503) 986-3359

See and be seen

Visibility can be key to safety no matter what your travel mode

With the shorter days this time of year, motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians need to be extra alert to see each other in low light situations.

Improving visibility means improving safety. That's why the Oregon Department of Transportation is urging everyone, and especially pedestrians, to "see and be seen" this fall and winter. Wearing light colors or reflective clothing is one of the simplest things pedestrians can do to keep themselves safe, but there are other easy tips that everyone can follow -

- Wear bright or reflective clothing or shoes when walking or biking in low light situations. Avoid dark clothes; folks can't avoid what they can't see.
- If there are no sidewalks or designated pedestrian routes, walk close to the edge of the road and out of the way of traffic. Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching vehicles and avoid dangers like truck or bus mirrors.
- Stay sober; walking while impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Don't wear headphones, text or talk on a cell phone while crossing the street.
- Watch out for motorists' blind spots.
- Remain alert! Don't assume that cars are going to stop.
- Be aware of vehicles around you. Make eye contact before crossing paths.
- Pedestrians should use crosswalks and sidewalks whenever possible.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing. Watch for turning cars.
- Driving or biking? Watch for pedestrians especially at night.
- Remember, under Oregon law there is a crosswalk at every intersection; stop and stay stopped for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Expect and slow for pedestrians in popular walking areas and near crosswalks.
- Travel at cautious speeds in wet or icy weather and in low-light areas.

For more information, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Pages/pedestrian.aspx>.

ODOT