# PUT YOUR best foot FORWARD.

At some point during the day, each of us is a pedestrian. By exercising a few safety steps, we can all get to where we're going safely. Remember, when you're on foot, the first step to safety is yours.

## ON FOOT? On guard!

**Ditch the distractions.** Keep your eyes and ears on traffic.

**Walk on the edge.** Always use the sidewalk when there is one. When there's not, stick to the shoulder and face traffic.

**Cross at corners.** Obey signals at all times and use crosswalks.

**Make eye contact.** Don't take a step to cross until drivers see you.

**Be visible.** If you're wearing dark clothing, drivers may not see you. So do what you can to be seen.

For more information about pedestrian safety, visit www.oregon.gov/pedestrian or www.pedbikeinfo.org

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**Share the Road. *The Way to Go.***
Transportation Safety – ODOT

# Do the Safety Step.

## A SAFETY GUIDE FOR PEDESTRIANS

WALK TO LIVE TO WALK TO LIVE TO WALK TO LIVE

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# Step it up with these safety tips:

## 1 STAY ALERT

When you're walking around traffic, keep your eyes and ears open. Ditch the distractions like texting, talking on your cell phone or listening to headphones.

## 2 CROSS WITH CAUTION

Don't assume the coast is clear just because you're using the crosswalk and the WALK sign is in your favor. It may not be.

- Always be on the lookout for drivers. When crossing a street, always look left-right-left, and only cross if all lanes of traffic have stopped.
- Continue to watch for traffic as you cross the street – especially for turning vehicles.
- Walk – don't run – across the street.
- Be extra alert when walking across driveways, alleys and through parking lots.

## 3 BE CLEAR TO DRIVERS

- If you wish to cross the street, be sure to establish eye contact with drivers. If you're not sure the driver sees you, let the vehicle go first.
- If you don't want to cross the street, step back from the edge of the roadway to avoid confusion.

The larger the vehicle, the more time it takes for them to stop. So never dart in front of an oncoming truck, bus or train.

## 4 GO AGAINST THE FLOW

If there isn't a sidewalk, walk on the shoulder or as far to the left as possible, facing oncoming traffic. This will make you more aware of conditions around you and give you time to respond to potential danger.

Most crashes occur at dusk and during winter months, when it's hardest for drivers to see you. So be extra careful when walking at those times.

## 5 OBEY THE SIGNALS

Every intersection is considered a pedestrian crosswalk, whether it's marked or not. If you cross a street outside a crosswalk, you **must yield** to motor vehicle traffic. Obey all pedestrian signals at the intersection:

- A green light or white WALK signal = it's your turn to go, but you should still check for traffic first.
- A flashing red hand = it's fine to continue crossing if you've already started.

- A solid red hand = you must wait to cross.

Be advised: some cities have laws against crossing mid-block or jaywalking, so make sure you know the rules.

## 6 DON'T BE WRONGED BY RIGHT OF WAY

Having the right of way doesn't give you the right to step in front of oncoming traffic, where the drivers may not have a chance to stop. In fact, Oregon law may hold you responsible for creating an immediate hazard. So look for traffic before you step off the curb, and continue to watch for vehicles as you walk.

## 7 STEP OUT OF DANGER

If you cross the street between parked cars, you could be stepping into danger.

Look for signs that a car is about to move (rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning), paying particular attention to electric or hybrid cars, which run nearly silent. And never walk behind a vehicle that is backing up.

Large cars, trucks and delivery vehicles can hide you from oncoming traffic. Plus, large vehicles have blind spots that may obstruct you from their driver's view. And the larger the vehicle, the more time and distance it takes for them to stop.

Dark clothing can make you hard to see. For added visibility, wear bright colors or reflective gear. Better yet, carry a light.