

# Straight Talk - Smart Walk

## Pedestrian Safety Program

### Pedestrian Safety Tips for Teen Drivers

#### Use your eyes: be street wise.

The open road—it's something you have been waiting for your entire life. When you get your driver's license, you finally have that taste of freedom and independence. Mom and dad don't have to drop you off at the movies or your friend's house. You can listen to your favorite music on the radio. At last, you will be in charge of making decisions about where you want to go.

With this freedom comes a huge responsibility. As a driver, you must be in control of your vehicle. Not only are you responsible for your own safety, but the safety of others on the road.

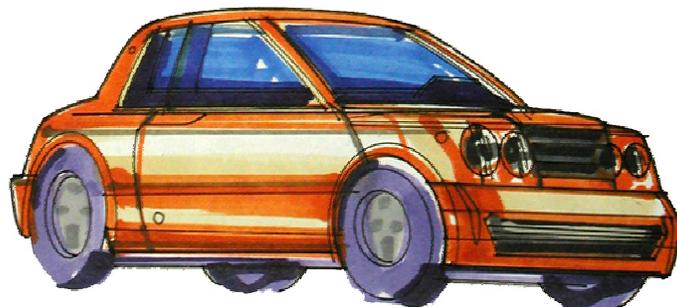


Be aware of pedestrians on the roads and on the sidewalks. Pedestrian collisions have severe consequences, and no one wants to be involved in such a tragedy. It is important to be a considerate, safe and aware driver.

#### Fast Facts about Traffic Collisions:

#### Watch for walkers

- Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for American teenagers.
- On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic collision every 109 minutes.
- In a typical 8-hour school-day, 4-5 pedestrians are killed.
- 31% of all pedestrian fatalities in California are associated with alcohol consumption.
- In 2002 in Los Angeles County:
  - 236 pedestrians were killed
  - 1,852 pedestrians were hospitalized



## Helpful Tips for Drivers about Pedestrian Safety:

- Stay alert! Be aware of what is happening around you at all times.
- Avoid distractions such as conversations with friends, handling cell phones, applying makeup or changing CDs.
- Make a complete stop at every posted intersection and traffic signal.
- Be alert and careful when passing stopped vehicles in adjacent lanes. They may be stopped for pedestrians.
- Be considerate. Make eye contact with pedestrians so they know you see them.
- Watch out for small children, especially in residential neighborhoods and near schools. They may run into the street unexpectedly.
- Use your mirrors and windows. Check your blind spots, especially when backing out of parking spots and driveways.
- Watch out around parked cars. People may be getting in or out of vehicles.
- Drive the safe speed for the road conditions or the neighborhood. If there are lots of kids, you may want to slow down.

### Who has the right of way?

*The pedestrian always has the right of way, whether in a "marked crosswalk" or "unmarked crosswalk."*



*Drivers must yield the right of way to pedestrians within a crosswalk, whether it is "marked" or "unmarked." A "marked crosswalk" is designated by white or yellow painted lines on the pavement. Corners without painted lines at intersections are "unmarked crosswalks." As a driver, it is your responsibility to be alert to prevent collisions with pedestrians and other motor vehicles.*

Although you may feel more independent, remember that your passengers, other drivers and pedestrians are depending on you to be a safe, responsible driver!

