

# Vehicle/Pedestrian Safety Tips

March 2010  
Fridley Police Crime Bites



## Tips for Drivers

- You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere - even in places where they are not supposed to be found.
- Pedestrians can be very hard to see - especially in bad weather or at night. You must keep a lookout and slow down if you can't see clearly.
- When entering a crosswalk area, drive slowly and be prepared to stop.
- Do not overtake and pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians.
- When you are turning, you often will have to wait for a "gap" in traffic. Beware that while you are watching for that "gap," pedestrians may have moved into your intended path.
- Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are active.
- Minnesota State Statute: vehicles are required to stop at least 20' from a marked crosswalk. The 20' (feet) statute includes **stopped, standing or parked vehicles.**
- Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk, even if it is not marked.

## Tips for Pedestrians

### Cross intersections carefully:

- Stop
- Look left-right-left and over your shoulder
- Cross as quickly as possible
- **• Respect traffic lights.**
- Be patient. Do not cross against the light.
- **• Pay attention.**
- Be alert for turning vehicles that may not stop for you. Make eye contact with the motorist if possible to make sure they see you. Do not assume the motorist will stop.
- **• Walk on the sidewalk or on the shoulder, facing traffic if there is no sidewalk.**
- **• Don't drink alcohol while walking.**
- **• Take extra care at dusk and at night.**
- Walking at night increases your chances of accidental death or injury. Drivers cannot avoid what they cannot see.
- **• Wear retro-reflective clothing or shoes; avoid dark clothes when walking at night.**
- **• Supervise and teach your children about safe walking.**
- Remember that children under nine years old often lack the judgment to make safe choices when dealing with traffic. Their size also makes them difficult for motorists to see.

