

HOW TO SAFELY CROSS STREETS AND AVOID HAZARDS

OBJECTIVE

Ensure that trainers are aware of common hazards at pedestrian crossings, proper pedestrian crossing behavior, and safe walking tips.

Pedestrian Crossing Hazards

Look at the picture on the right. What are some of the risk factors of this crossing?

1) DISTANCE

Long crossing distances mean that the pedestrian is in the road - and at risk - for a longer time. This is a particularly important factor for children and seniors crossing the street.

2) CROSSWALK MARKINGS

The markings for this crosswalk are very faded and may not be seen by drivers. Pedestrians must keep this in mind when attempting to cross and take extra caution at poorly marked or unmarked pedestrian crossings.



3) LEFT TURNING VEHICLES

Vehicles turning left into the crosswalk may be travelling at high speed and not see you. Take extra care at intersections with left turning vehicles.

4) HIGH TRAFFIC VOLUME

Busy roads require extra caution to cross. Be aware of vehicle turning movements and allow sufficient time to cross. Assume that drivers are not aware of you and prepare accordingly.



HOW TO CROSS SAFELY

Regardless of the risk factors of a particular crossing, every pedestrian should consider the following when crossing streets or walking along them:

- Only cross at street corners, and use a marked crosswalk when possible. Do not cross mid-block unless there is a marked crosswalk.
- Activate the pedestrian push button (when available) and wait for the pedestrian "Walk" signal.
- Make eye contact with drivers before you cross in front of them. This is one of the best ways to ensure that drivers are aware of you.
- Always walk facing traffic if there is no sidewalk available.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing to increase your visibility to drivers, especially at night.



Further Reading:

New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety | www.njsaferoads.com | Federal Highway Administration, Education & Outreach safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/education/ | The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center | www.walkinginfo.org