

Bike & Pedestrian Safety

Safe streets are a shared responsibility between motorists and pedestrians to help every user reach their destination safely,. By practicing safe behaviors while driving and walking, we can help prevent crashes, injuries and deaths on our roadways.

Tips for Motorists

1. Put the phone down and pay attention. Driving while distracted increases risk for all road users;
2. Perform a regular visual check by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or exiting a lane of traffic, and at intersections;
3. Use a turn signal before changing lanes or merging with traffic to alert others of your intentions;
4. Obey the speed limit. Driving at the posted limit allows you to see, identify and react to possible obstacles;
5. Drive sober. Alcohol and drugs affect judgment, balance and reaction time. Always make a plan for a safe ride home;
6. Buckle up. Wearing a seat belt gives you the best protection against injury and death;
7. Keep your windshield, windows and mirrors clean so you can scan the road ahead and establish a "visual lead";
8. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians;
9. Turn on headlights during evening hours when you need more time to see a pedestrian or cyclist;
10. Pass to the left of a bicycle, allowing at least three feet clearance;
11. Do not use designated bike lanes for parking, passing or turning; and
12. Be aware in neighborhoods and school zones. Children are often the smallest pedestrians, making them harder to see. Additionally, younger children may dart into intersections without understanding the dangers.



Tips for Bicyclists

1. Wear a properly-fitted helmet that meets that meets the Consumer Product Safety Commission standards;
2. Use hand signals when changing lanes or turning;
3. Wear brightly colored protective gear and use reflective tape and stickers to increase visibility;
4. Pay attention by avoiding any action that takes your eyes, your ears or your mind off the road and traffic;
5. Scan ahead for possible obstacles in your path, such as parked cars or cars pulling out or into parking spaces or driveways;
6. Check your equipment before riding. Make sure your brakes are working and tires are properly inflated;
7. Ride in the same direction as traffic; and
8. Never ride impaired. Alcohol and/or drugs can impair your judgment, coordination and reaction time.



Visit bikesafeky.com for more information.

Tips for Pedestrians

1. Use crosswalks when available. Avoid jaywalking and crossing between parked vehicles.
2. Walk on sidewalks whenever possible. If you must walk on the street, walk facing traffic.
3. Don't depend on the traffic signal to protect you. Motorists may be distracted, especially when adjusting to the nighttime travel environment.
4. Increase visibility, especially at night. Carry a flashlight, wear reflective clothing or attach reflective materials - such as fluorescent tape - to clothing, backpacks, purses and briefcases. These materials reflect light from headlights back to drivers, making it easier to see you.
5. Just because you can see a motorist does not mean the motorist can see you. If you cannot make eye contact or do not see the driver slow down for you, wait until the vehicle passes, even if you have the right of way.
6. Put the phone down and pay attention. Distraction changes the way you walk, react and behave, including safety-related behaviors.
7. Use caution if intoxicated. While you may be doing the right thing by not drinking and driving, risk still exists. Alcohol and drugs affect judgment, balance and reaction time, so always make a plan for a safe ride home.

Visit www.walksafeky.com more information.



For Additional Information:

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>
- **Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority:** <http://tourism.ky.gov/krtc/>
- **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet:** <http://bikewalk.ky.gov>
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):** www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center:** www.pedbikeinfo.org