



NEWS RELEASE

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFERS TIPS TO KEEP PEDESTRIANS SAFE

~ Sunday's time change will lessen visibility during morning hours ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The commute to school and work on Monday morning will be darker for some than it was today. Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday at 2 a.m., which means we will wind our clocks forward an hour. In 2008, there were more than 8,400 vehicle crashes involving pedestrians in Florida. Your safety is our priority, and the Florida Highway Patrol offers the following tips if you are walking or driving to school or work or waiting at a bus stop.

Pedestrians, make yourself visible to drivers.

- Wear reflective materials and bright/light-colored clothing and carry a flashlight when it is dark.
- Eliminate distractions, such as wearing headphones and talking on the cell phone while walking, especially when crossing the street.
- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars or other obstacles before stepping into the street.
- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- Stay sober. Walking impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Do not assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers and wait until they show signs of slowing or stopping for you.
- Obey traffic signals. Only cross the street when the appropriate signal is lit.
- Do not rely solely on pedestrian signals. Look before you cross the road.
- Watch for cars backing up in parking lots and near on-street parking spaces.
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or at intersections.
- Look left, right, behind, and left again before crossing a street or stepping into traffic.
- Watch for turning vehicles. Make sure the driver sees you and will stop.
- When crossing multiple lanes of traffic, look across all lanes you must cross and visually clear each lane before proceeding.

Drivers, be aware of your surroundings.

- Keep an eye out for pedestrians. Scan the road and roadside ahead of you.
- Look in all directions before you make a turn and yield to pedestrians at crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked.
- Eliminate distractions, e.g. texting or talking on a cell phone, eating, applying make-up.
- Do not park in or block crosswalks.
- Pay close attention to motor vehicles stopped for crossing pedestrians. Do not pass the stopped vehicle.
- Know when to stop for a stopped school bus. Visit the Department's [website](#) for related laws.
- Come to a complete stop at stop signs and signals and always be prepared to stop for pedestrians.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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