



TRAFFIC SAFETY Huddle



PEDESTRIANS

JAN 2021

LENGTH 12–15 minutes

TO PREPARE Read the background information.

BACKGROUND

- All of us are pedestrians at some time during the day. As an employer, knowing your employees are walking safely is part of your transportation safety culture. An employee engaged in cell phone usage while walking across a street is at a greater risk than ever. A new GHSA report indicates 6,590 pedestrian fatalities occurred in 2019, the highest number in more than 30 years. Since 2013, pedestrian fatalities involving SUVs increased by 50%, compared to 30% for passenger cars; leading to more serious injuries and potentially greater risk of fatality.
- In this Safety Huddle, employees will learn how to walk or ride more safely when in a roadway where vehicles out-power and outweigh them.
- In the spirit of keeping your employees safe, you can intervene, sometimes by simply saying, “Please be careful!” It’s a helpful way to show you care about your employees’ safety. And don’t forget to set a good example by refraining from distracted walking yourself.

DISCUSSION

- We have all seen them, right? The walking pedestrian who doesn’t see anything but the screen of their phone, or is mindlessly staring straight ahead while absorbed in an important conversation.
- All of us are pedestrians at some time during the day.



During work hours, what are some of the reasons you might be walking outdoors, through parking lots, and beyond?

Answers will vary.



Sharing the roadway as drivers, walkers, and cyclists, makes walkers and cyclists vulnerable road users. What are some things to keep in mind when you are a vulnerable road user?



TRAFFIC SAFETY Huddle



- Whenever possible, **walk on the sidewalk**; if no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Follow the rules of the road, **obeying all traffic signs** and signals.
- Cross streets at **crosswalks**.
- **Look left, right and left again** before crossing the street, making eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you.
- **Stay alert**—avoid cell phone use and do not walk with earbuds in your ears.
- **Avoid impairment** from alcohol and other drugs when walking.



Most pedestrian fatalities take place on local roads, at night, and away from intersections. What other safety precautions should pedestrians do at night?

- Be alert as the risk of impaired drivers is greater at night.
- Drivers are more likely to speed at night or be fatigued while driving.
- If no crosswalk is available and your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic.
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing, and use a flashlight.

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION

If time allows, discuss pedestrian safety related to driving safety tips and the videos shared at:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety>

SUMMARY

- Helping employees understand that work-related safe walking practices spill over into safe walking practices everywhere else assists you in keeping them safe.
- Being a walker or cyclist means securing your own safety by staying alert and mindful of your path 100% of the time.
- We, as road users, must engage in safety and limit all distractions whether it is driving, walking or biking. There may not be a second chance.