



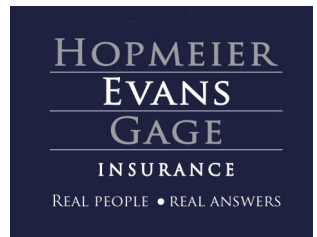
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The Growing Problem of Pedestrian Safety

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over 6,200 people were killed and an estimated 76,000 were injured in traffic crashes in 2019 in the US, a 45% increase in fatalities in the last decade.

We are walking and biking more than ever and we don't want to discourage that trend. We as drivers and pedestrians must do a better job of sharing the roadways, and education is the key.

Speed kills: A pedestrian hit at 42 mph has twice the fatality rate of a pedestrian hit at 32 mph. We must follow the posted speed limit; it is way too easy to "go with the flow". We also need to look and scan far and wide for surprises and **put down our coffee and cell phone and just drive!**

As pedestrians we have a responsibility for our own safety as well. The life we save is our own. Walking while distracted and / or drunk is a huge issue. This may not be illegal, but can be deadly.

Some other important things a pedestrian to remember:

- * Always walk facing traffic, you can't react to what you can't see
- * Wear reflective clothing or a keychain LED blinker, it helps motorists too see you.
- * Only cross the road at crosswalks and intersections and move away from parked cars.
- * **Beware** of drivers turning "Right on Red".
- * Never assume a driver will give you the right of way, make eye contact before proceeding.
- * Just because the first car stops, doesn't end the danger.
- * Distracted walking kills. **Put down your cell phone and remove at least one earbud.**

Be careful and safe out there and remember to stay alert as a driver or pedestrian.

-excerpt from AAA Everyday Magazine

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