

## City urges motorists and pedestrians to use caution

### *An average of six pedestrians per week involved in collisions*

As the days grow shorter and road conditions change, Edmonton motorists and pedestrians are reminded to use caution on city streets. Later sunrise and earlier nightfall mean less light and make it more challenging for motorists and pedestrians to see each other.

"Motorists and pedestrians share responsibility for preventing collisions," said Gerry Shimko, Office of Traffic Safety. "We urge Edmontonians to exercise more caution by always being fully aware of what is happening on the streets around them."

In 2012, 310 pedestrians were involved in collisions with vehicles in Edmonton, an average of six pedestrians per week. Pedestrians crossing the road with the right-of-way (e.g. at a marked crosswalk, an unmarked crossing at an intersection or at a signalized intersection with a walk sign) made up 65 per cent of all pedestrian injuries, including fatalities.

"Having the right-of-way doesn't always mean it is safe to proceed," added Shimko. "Keeping your head up is especially important at intersections and crosswalks. It is even more critical at this time of year, when low light and poor weather can make it harder for motorists and pedestrians to see each other."

Edmontonians can take the following steps to prevent collisions:

#### **Heads up pedestrians!**

- Cross with care. Make eye contact with drivers and wait until traffic has stopped before you cross.
- Pay attention. Avoid distractions such as texting.
- Get noticed. Wear bright clothes and reflective gear, especially in low light or poor weather.
- Be predictable. Use crosswalks and intersections. Never jaywalk.
- Heads up at intersections. Don't start to cross on the flashing hand or countdown signal. Finish crossing quickly if you've already started.

#### **Heads up motorists!**

- Be alert for pedestrians at all times, especially at intersections and crosswalks, especially in low light or poor weather.
- Pay attention. Avoid distractions such as texting.
- See and be seen. Make eye contact with pedestrians.
- Watch for vehicles slowing down around you. They may be yielding to a pedestrian.
- Heads up at intersections. Follow traffic lights, not the flashing hand or countdown signal. Pedestrian signals aren't always timed to traffic lights.

For a video about the importance of shared pedestrian responsibility, click [here](#).

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