



Driving on the Right Side of the Road Pedestrian Safety



JUST THE FACTS

NATIONALLY:

- In 2009, 4,092 pedestrians died as a result of traffic crashes, 276 (6%) of which were children age 15 or younger.¹
- There were 59,000 pedestrians injured in 2009, 15,000 (25%) of which were children age 15 or younger.²
- In 2010, 4,280 pedestrians were killed and an estimated 70,000 were injured in traffic crashes.³
- On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every eight minutes in traffic crashes in 2010.⁴

TEXAS:

- In Texas, 344 pedestrians died in traffic crashes in 2009. Of all 2009 U.S. pedestrian fatalities, 8% occurred in Texas

IT'S THE LAW

- A traffic control signal displaying green (go), red (stop), and yellow (caution) lights or lighted signal applies to pedestrians unless otherwise directed by a special pedestrian control signal.⁵
- Pedestrians should use crosswalks and cross at corners whenever possible.⁶
- Pedestrians should stay on the right-hand side of crosswalks within the crosswalk lines.⁷
- Drivers must yield to a pedestrian at marked crosswalks.⁸
- Pedestrians should yield to vehicles on the roadway if crossing the street at a place other than a marked crosswalk, pedestrian tunnel or crossing.⁹
- If a sidewalk is provided and accessible to the pedestrian, the pedestrian should not walk along or on a roadway.¹⁰
- If a sidewalk is not available, a pedestrian may walk along and on a highway facing highway traffic (left-hand side or on the shoulder).¹¹

KEEP IT SAFE

- Always cross at intersections. If the "Don't Walk" signal is flashing, pedestrians may finish crossing the street. Pedestrians may not begin crossing the street when the "Don't Walk" signal is flashing.
- Before crossing the street, make sure the street is clear by looking left- then right- then left again.
- Children under age 10 should hold hands with an adult or older sibling when crossing the street or in a parking lot.
- Be careful around parked cars or school buses by keeping an eye out for traffic or for cars turning and backing up. Even if the child can see the driver, the driver may not see the child.
- Do not run into the street, even to chase a friend, pet or toy.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Safety Tips Pedestrians and School Buses](#)¹²
- [Pedestrian Safety Fact Sheet](#)¹³
- [Pedestrian Crash Facts](#)¹⁴
- [Texas Drivers Handbook](#)¹⁵

¹ NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2009, DOT HS 811402, People, Retrieved on August 31, 2012, from <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811402.pdf>, (hereinafter referred to as NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2009).

² See NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2009 – endnote 1

³ NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, 2010 Data, DOT HS 811625, Pedestrians, Retrieved on August 31, 2012, from <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811625.pdf> (hereinafter referred to as NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2010 Pedestrians).

⁴ See NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2010 Pedestrians – endnote 3

⁵ Texas Transportation Code, Section 552.001 (Traffic Control Signals).

⁶ Texas Department of Transportation, *Safety Tips Pedestrians and School Buses*, Retrieved on April 28, 2011, from <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/safety/tips/pedestrians.htm> (hereinafter referred to as TxDOT *Safety Tips Pedestrians and School Buses*).

⁷ See TxDOT *Safety Tips Pedestrians and School Buses* – endnote 6

⁸ Texas Transportation Code, Section 552.003 (Pedestrian Right-of-Way at Crosswalk).

⁹ Texas Transportation Code, Section 552.003 (Pedestrian Right-of-Way at Crosswalk).

¹⁰ Texas Transportation Code, Section 552.006 (Use of Sidewalk).

¹¹ Texas Transportation Code, Section 552.006 (Use of Sidewalk); See TxDOT *Safety Tips Pedestrians and School Buses* – endnote 6

¹² See TxDOT *Safety Tips Pedestrians and School Buses* – endnote 6

¹³ Texas AgriLife Extension Service, *Pedestrian Safety Fact Sheet*, Retrieved on April 28, 2011, from http://fcs.tamu.edu/safety/passenger_safety/pdf/pedestrian_safety_fact_sheet.pdf.

¹⁴ Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, *Pedestrian Crash Facts*, Retrieved on April 28, 2011, from <http://www.walkinginfo.org/facts/facts.cfm>.

¹⁵ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Texas Drivers Handbook* (revised October 2008), Retrieved on April 28, 2011, from <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/documents/DL-7.pdf>.