

It's not about blame. It's about safety.



# Pedestrian safety is a two-way street.

In 2010\*, 18 people have died in traffic crashes. More than half of these were pedestrians. But worse yet, all of these fatalities could have been prevented if either party took steps to avoid certain unsafe behaviors.

**For motorists**, taking the extra time to drive safely is your most important responsibility. Speeding, failing to yield, and running red lights or STOP signs are some of the most common errors drivers make.

**For pedestrians**, crossing at an undesirable location, failing to look both ways, and not following the directions of traffic signals or crossing guards can lead to serious injury or death.



## Unsafe motorist behaviors to avoid:

- Speeding through residential streets and school zones
- Failing to yield to pedestrians, especially in crosswalks
- Running red lights or STOP signs
- Turning right or left at intersections without yielding to pedestrians
- Exiting or entering driveways or alleys without yielding to pedestrians
- Passing stopped cars and school buses
- Parking or stopping in crosswalks
- Driving while distracted (cell phones, radios, other people, eating food)
- Driving while intoxicated

## Unsafe pedestrian behaviors to avoid:

- Walking while intoxicated, wearing headphones, or while talking on a cell phone.
- Crossing a street at an undesirable or unsafe location.
- Not looking left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- Darting out between parked cars into the path of oncoming cars.
- Wearing dark clothes when there is poor lighting.
- Not following the directions of traffic signals or crossing guards.
- Entering a stream of traffic and disrupting the flow.

## MOTORISTS: Avoid the charge. Avoid the fine.

- Failure to STOP and give right of way to a pedestrian who has begun crossing on the WALK signal. **\$250 and 3 points**
- Failure to STOP and give right of way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection (un-signalized crosswalk). **\$250 and 3 points**
- Overtaking a vehicle from the rear that is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an unmarked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway. **\$250 and 3 points**
- Failure to give right of way to a pedestrian on a sidewalk (e.g., alleys and parking lots). **\$250 and 3 points**
- Colliding with a pedestrian while committing any of the above-listed offenses. Penalty for colliding with a pedestrian leads to a double fine. **\$500 and 6 points**  
(plus possible criminal charges)

## PEDESTRIANS: Avoid the charge. Avoid the fine.

- Walking against "Don't Walk" signal [DCMR 2302.3] **\$20**
- Crossing the Roadway Outside of a Crosswalk [DCMR 2304.1] **\$20**

\*Statistics as of August 9, 2010. Source: MPD TSSEB



**Metropolitan Police Department**  
Traffic Safety and Specialized Enforcement Branch  
Motor Carrier Unit

For more pedestrian and motorist safety tips, see:

[www.mpdc.dc.gov/trafficsafety](http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/trafficsafety) or [www.bestreetsmart.net](http://www.bestreetsmart.net)