



City & County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health
Community Health Programs

International Institute of San Francisco Immigration & Citizenship Program



Pedestrian Safety

HANDBOOK

Find out more about our injury data, community-based projects, media campaigns, and general information at:
http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/traffic_safety/

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8. REPORT THE MATTER TO THE INSURANCE

Report the collision to your insurance company preferably within 48 hours of the collision.

9. MEDICAL CHECK-UP

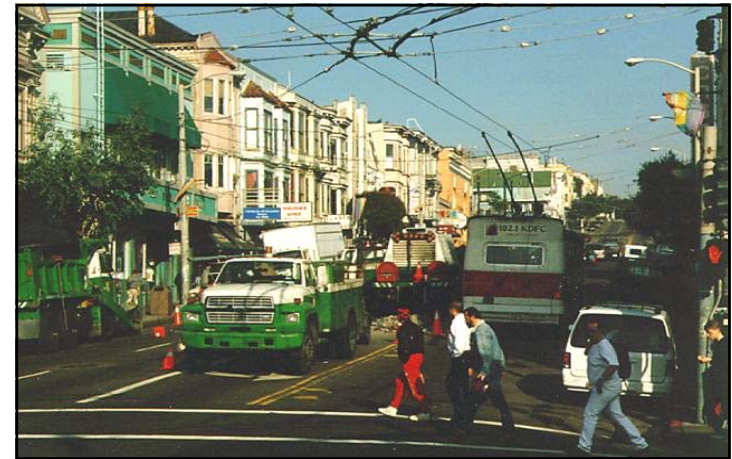
Even if you are not hurt enough to be hospitalized it is a good idea to have a check-up. Many injuries do not show up immediately.

10. ASSIST OTHERS

If you come upon an auto collision that you're not a party to and wish to offer assistance, pull your car off the road ahead of the collision scene. Do not park in back of the collision, which will only make your vehicle vulnerable to oncoming traffic and block the view of emergency or police vehicles looking for the scene. When arriving at the scene of a collision, first determine if there are any injuries. If so, immediately call for medical assistance.

11. BE PREPARED

Carry an emergency kit in your car that should minimally include: a road flare or traffic triangle, brightly colored cloth to tie to your radio antenna and driver side door handle, a flashlight with fully charged batteries, a first aid kit, a basic tool kit with duct tape and a pen and paper. Always have a copy of your insurance company I.D. card in your glove compartment and have your driver's license and car registration with you.



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This Pedestrian Safety Handbook was developed by the International Institute of San Francisco, under a grant from the San Francisco Department of Public Health. It was designed to help new arrivals to San Francisco understand the special traffic dangers to pedestrians here, keep themselves safer and help organize their communities to improve pedestrian safety. It is distributed by the Health Department as an introduction to pedestrian safety for all San Franciscans.

Pedestrian Injuries & Fatalities in the United States



Traffic crashes in the United States involving pedestrians are a national problem and one of the leading causes of all fatalities and injuries.

Here are some statistics on what happens in the US every day and every year:

- ◆ About 5,000 pedestrians are killed and 85,000 pedestrians are injured every year.
- ◆ A pedestrian is killed or injured about every 6 minutes.
- ◆ In a typical 8-hour workday 4-5 pedestrians are killed.
- ◆ 13-14 pedestrians are killed and another 232 pedestrians are injured every 24 hours.
- ◆ A "jet-load" (190) pedestrians is killed every two weeks.
- ◆ Pedestrian injuries and fatalities result in \$20 billion in societal costs.

4. CALL FOR HELP

Call the police from the scene or ask someone to call for you.

Immediately try to call 911 if someone seems to be injured. If you or others are bleeding, feel lightheaded or have any physical injury, always call for assistance. Unless trained in emergency medical assistance, DO NOT attempt to move injured persons or perform medical procedures yourself.

5. KEEP YOUR COOL

Do not get excited or lose your temper. Never fight or argue with the driver or passengers of the other vehicle. Do not admit fault or discuss the collision with anyone except for the police or your auto insurance company. Remember to call your insurance company as soon as you can.

6. GET INFORMATION

Write down information such as the other driver's name, address, telephone number, license plate and driver's license number and the time of the collision. Note the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses, the badge number of any police officers and where to obtain a copy of a police report and any other information about the scene, such as exact location, the issuance of any tickets by the police and anything you remember about your vehicle's handling or mechanical functioning just prior to the collision.

7. REPORT THE COLLISION

Report the collision immediately at the nearest police station. It is not only an obligation but also your legal duty to do so. Report the facts as accurately and as objectively as possible. You do not have to either admit your fault or plead guilty. Remember that you have the right to consult a lawyer before you make a statement.

In Case of a Traffic Collision



As drivers, passengers, and pedestrians we might get involved in a traffic collision at some point of our lives. Since collisions are not normal everyday events most of us are too shocked by what happened to think about what to do. More often, lack of knowledge about handling an emergency like a collision also leads to a lot of confusion. Here are a few steps for you to follow.

1. IF YOU ARE A DRIVER, STOP YOUR VEHICLE IMMEDIATELY

Never try to drive away from the scene of a collision in which you are involved. It may get you into legal difficulties later and it is your duty to help if somebody has been injured. If you leave the scene of a serious collision, you may go to jail if you are later found.

2. MOVE OUT OF THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC

If you are involved in a traffic collision with NO personal injuries and the vehicles are driveable, please get the vehicles out of the flow of traffic.

3. TRY TO WARN OTHER DRIVERS

Use emergency lights, the car lights or if you have a flashlight to warn other approaching drivers that there is a collision.

Who dies in these crashes?

- ◆ 60 percent of the victims are working adults
- ◆ 23 percent are elderly persons ages 65 or older
- ◆ 17 percent are children up to the age of 20

Alcohol was involved (either for the driver or for the pedestrian) in 47 percent of the traffic crashes in which pedestrians died. Of the pedestrians involved, 31 percent were intoxicated [blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.10 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or greater]. In 5 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian were intoxicated.

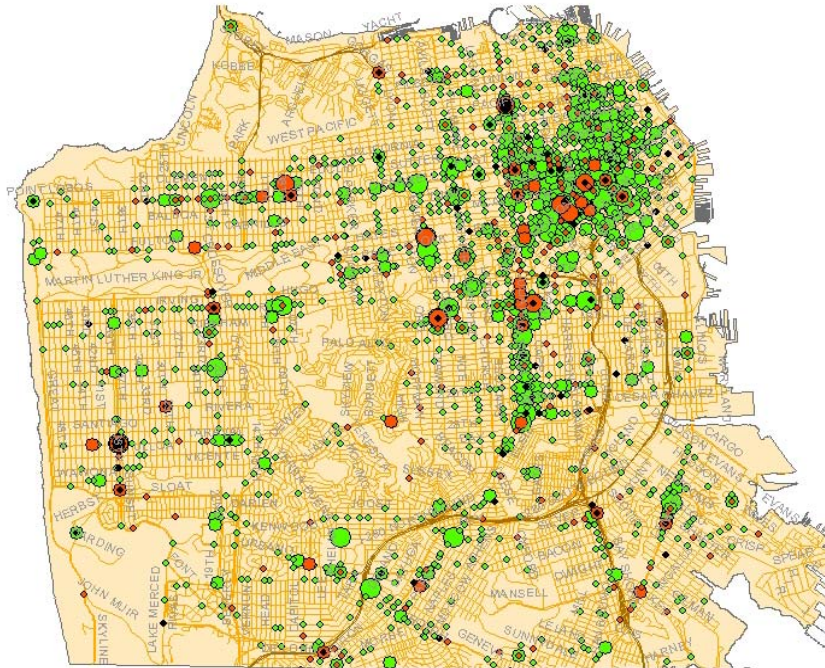


Mapping Pedestrian Injuries in San Francisco

San Francisco is a big city with busy traffic and high volume of pedestrians. Traffic crashes in San Francisco are the second highest cause of injury deaths after drugs and other poisoning deaths.

The map below shows the locations and frequency of the traffic incidents involving pedestrians:

**All Pedestrian Injuries in San Francisco
Jan 1999 to Dec 2001**



SWITRS Traffic Collisions summed to nearest intersection where a pedestrian was injured.

All Injured Pedestrians		
Total	Severe	Fatal
1-2	1	1
3-5	2	2
6-14	3-4	
15-25		



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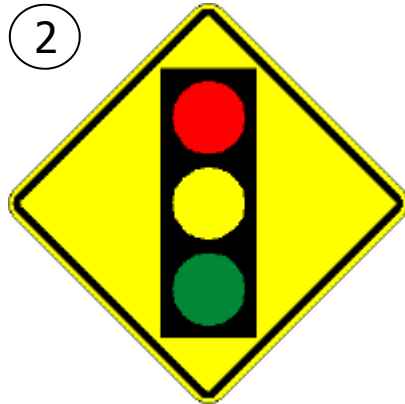


7) Pedestrians Prohibited: It is unsafe and illegal to walk here
8) Cross Only at Crosswalks: It is unsafe and illegal to cross this street except at the crosswalk
9) Bicycles Ahead/Crossing
10) Bike Route: Designated for bicycle use

1) Pedestrians Ahead/Crossing
2) Signal Ahead
3) School
4) School Crossing
5) Pedestrian Crossing
6) No Pedestrians

ANSWERS

Look at the signs below and write down what they mean:



Locations with the Highest Number of Pedestrian Injuries (1990-2002 data)

<i>Intersection</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Number of pedestrians injured (fatal and non-fatal)</i>
5th & Market Streets	1	96
6th & Market Streets	2	90
7th & Market Streets	3	85
16th & Mission Streets	4	55
Castro & Market Streets	5	48
Van Ness Ave & Market Street	6	47
6th & Mission Streets	7	37
24th & Mission Streets	8	28
4th & Market Streets	9	27
8th & Market Streets	10	23

Source: Pedestrian Injury Surveillance System, Community Health Education Section, San Francisco Department of Public Health

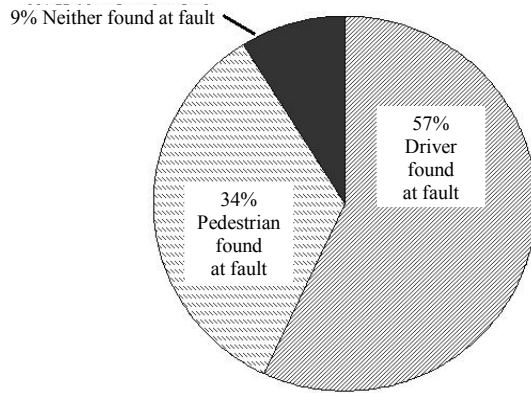


THE QUIZ

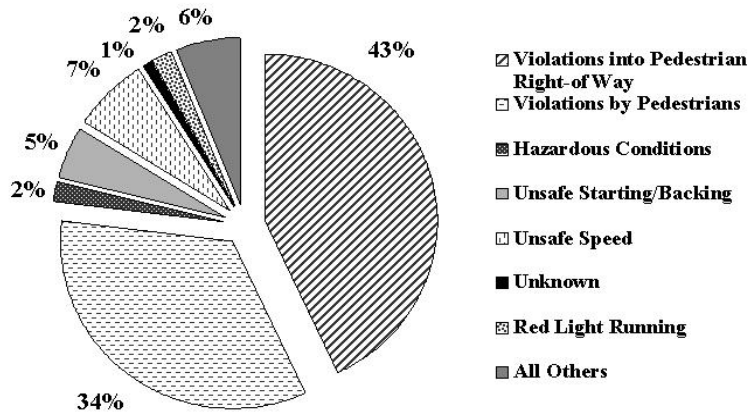
Collisions Involving Pedestrians

There is a common belief that drivers are to blame for the vast majority of traffic crashes and the pedestrians are mainly the innocent victims. The charts below with information provided by San Francisco Police Department show that both drivers and pedestrians are violating the traffic rules and causing collisions.

SFPD Attribution of Responsibility



Breakdown of Unsafe Actions or Conditions



1. What does the green light or this signal mean?



2. Before you step off the curb or the edge of the road to cross the street, what do you always do?



3. What do you do if the RED HAND signal starts to blink or the DON'T WALK signal comes on while you are in the middle of the street?

4. What should you do if the RED HAND signal or the DON'T WALK signal is blinking when you get to the curb or edge of the road?



5. What should you do if the RED HAND signal or the DON'T WALK signal is blinking when you get to the curb or edge of the road, but the traffic signal is green?



Myths and Facts About Pedestrian Safety

Myth 1: A green light means that it is safe to cross.

Fact: A green light means that you may stop and search for cars. Before you step off the curb, look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT, and if it is safe to do so, cross and keep looking left and right as you do so. Be alert for vehicles making a right turn on red.

Myth 2: A yellow light means you can start to cross the street.

Fact: A yellow light means that all vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians should slow down for the upcoming red light. If you start crossing the street on a yellow light, you probably won't have enough time to safely get across. Do not start.

Myth 3: You are safe in a crosswalk.

Fact: You may cross at a crosswalk, but before you do, you must stop at the curb. Look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT for cars. When it is clear, cross and keep looking left and right.

Myth 4: If you see the driver, the driver sees you.

Fact: The driver may not see you. Make certain the driver sees you and stops before you cross in front of the car. Try to make eye contact with the driver.

Myth 5: The driver will stop if you are in a crosswalk or at a green light.

Fact: The driver may not see you. The driver's view may be blocked. The driver may run a traffic light illegally. The driver may turn without looking for pedestrians.

Myth 6: Wearing white at night makes you visible to drivers.

Fact: Even if you wear white clothes, drivers will have a difficult time seeing you at night. Carry a flashlight. Wear retro-reflective clothing. Walk facing traffic.

AND DON'T FORGET...

- ◆ **ALWAYS use sidewalks when they are available.**
- ◆ **Watch for cars backing out of parking spaces and driveways.**
- ◆ **Never walk along or attempt to cross expressways, interstate highways, or turnpikes.**
- ◆ **About 33 percent of all pedestrians killed have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.1 or greater - so limit any alcohol consumption if you plan to walk.**

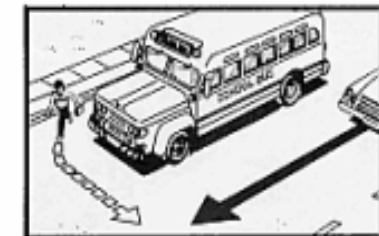
Some Common Collision Situations



1) Pedestrian darting out into the street



2) Vehicle turning into the path of pedestrian

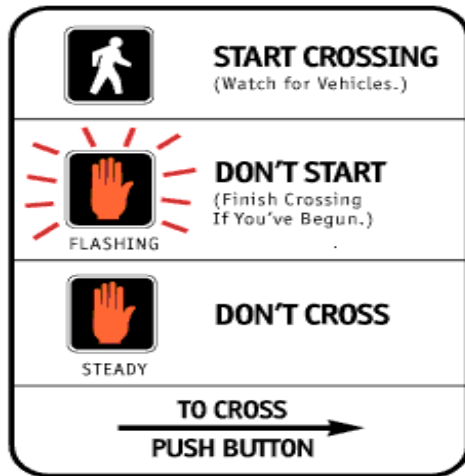


3) Pedestrian is hidden by the bus



4) Pedestrian is jaywalking

Crossing Rules for Pedestrians



We are all pedestrians at one time or another, and the traffic signals, signs and pavement markings are there to assure our safety. However, we should realize that no amount of traffic control devices will be able to protect us from ourselves if we do not pay attention to the "Signs of Safety" all around us.

ALWAYS follow these steps when crossing a street:

- ◆ **ALWAYS** use a marked crosswalk when one is available. The bright white lines of a crosswalk remind motorists to look out for pedestrians.
- ◆ **STOP** at the CURB, edge of road, corner or parked vehicle before proceeding across.
- ◆ **LOOK** left, right, and left again, and if it's clear, begin crossing.
- ◆ **CONTINUE** to check for traffic in all directions, especially for vehicles turning "Right-on-Red."
- ◆ **DON'T ASSUME** that drivers see you all the time! If there is traffic, make eye contact with the driver/s so they see you and understand your intention. Again, **STOP** before you start to cross.

Crossing an Intersection

- ◆ If there is a push button, press the button and wait for the pedestrian signal to display the "walk" indication. The "**WALK**" signal indicates that a pedestrian facing the signal indication may proceed across the roadway in that direction. Remember to follow the basic "Crossing Rules" and check for turning vehicles.



- ◆ A flashing "**DON'T WALK**" signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the indication, but any pedestrian who has partly completed their crossing shall finish crossing or proceed to a safety island in that direction.



- ◆ A steadily illuminated "**DON'T WALK**" indication means a pedestrian shall not enter the roadway in the direction of the indication. Pedestrians waiting to cross must wait for the next "**WALK**" signal.



- ◆ At signalized intersections that don't have pedestrian signals, pedestrians facing a green light may cross within a crosswalk in the direction of the light, but only when it is safe to do so. At signalized intersections with pedestrian signals, it's important to follow the directions given by the signals.
- ◆ Remember, don't take those "**NO RIGHT TURN ON RED**" signs for granted. Always check for turning vehicles before stepping off the curb - motorists make mistakes too.