

Ohio State Highway Patrol



MEDIA RELEASE



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Patrol offers pedestrian safety tips ahead of Halloween

COLUMBUS – People walk or run for various reasons. Whether it’s exercise, down the street to the coffee shop or around the neighborhood during trick-or-treat, safety should be a primary concern. This is why the Ohio State Highway Patrol is reminding both pedestrians and motorists that pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility.

During the last five years, pedestrian-involved crashes have increased. From 2013-2017, there were 13,263 pedestrian-involved crashes in Ohio, resulting in 584 fatalities and 12,333 injuries. Pedestrians were at fault in two-thirds of fatal crashes with improper crossing being the leading cause.

“Pedestrians and motorists each have an important role in safety,” said Colonel Paul Pride, Patrol superintendent. “Through education and increased awareness, we can have a significant impact on reducing these crashes in our state.”

Pedestrians and motorists can follow these tips to increase pedestrian safety:

- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available. When no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic as far away from the edge of the roadway as possible.
- Stay alert at all times, motorists and pedestrians should be prepared in case a hazardous situation arises.
- Don’t be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.
- Pedestrians should wear bright or reflective clothing, especially at night.
- Pedestrians should cross where motorists expect them to, follow pedestrian signs and signals, and never assume a driver can see you.
- Motorists are required to yield to pedestrians in a marked crosswalk and in unmarked crosswalks at intersections.
- Motorists can use bright headlights when legally able to illuminate the roadway and possibly spot a pedestrian walking near the roadway.
- Motorists should slow down and drive cautiously in residential areas.

For a statistical map regarding pedestrian-involved crashes and a county-by-county breakdown of where these crashes have occurred, please visit

https://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/Pedestrian_Bulletin_2018.pdf.

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