



ACHIEVING VISION ZERO: SAFETY TIPS FOR ALL USERS



Whether you are walking, biking or driving to get around town, we have tips to make your trip safer. On average, collisions seriously injure or kill nearly 9 San Luis Obispo residents, workers, students or visitors each year. While these totals have been trending downward since initiation of the City's Traffic Safety Program in 2002, we can do more together. As you go about your day, we want to empower you to make your journey as safe as possible. Please share this information with friends, family, and coworkers. By creating a community of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who educated on street safety, and who prioritize sharing the street, we can create a city where injuries and fatalities do not occur on our city streets.

Traffic-related deaths are preventable and it takes all of us to achieve the goal of ZERO

Driving



Pause & Wait Before You Turn

Left-turns severely injure three times as many pedestrians as right-turns. Stop at the stop bar and when clear, turn slowly and expect people in the crosswalk.

Slow Down

If you hit a bicyclist or pedestrian at 30 mph, you are twice as likely to kill them than if you hit them at 25 mph. As speed increases, your field of vision narrows and the risk of severe injury or death in a collision increases exponentially.

Avoid Dangerous Choices

Dangerous driver choices are the primary cause or contributing factor in 70% of pedestrian fatalities. Put down the phone while driving and find another way home if you are intoxicated.

Watch Out for Bicyclists

Nearly every bicyclist has had a close call, if not worse, with a car door suddenly opening into their path of travel. As a driver, you can help address this concern by opening the car door with your right hand, a technique called the "Dutch Reach", that naturally causes you to look back and see if there are any oncoming bicyclists.



Walking



Watch for Turning Cars

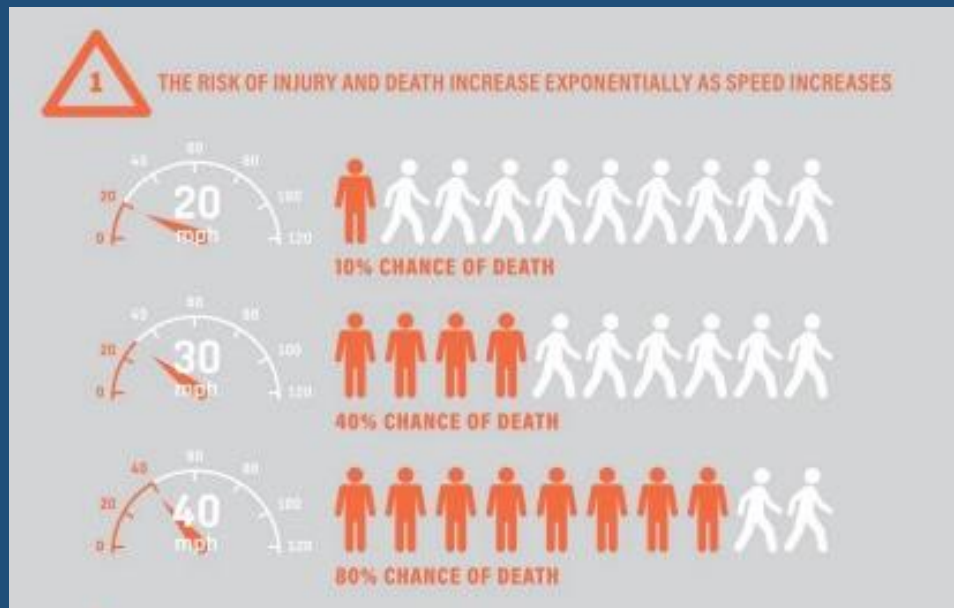
The vast majority of pedestrian collisions occur at intersections. Stay focused and minimize distractions when crossing the street. Be especially alert for traffic turning left at intersections.

Be Visible

Do what you can to be seen. By wearing a brightly-colored piece of clothing, you will be much more visible when walking along the sidewalk or crossing the street, particularly at night.

Look in All Directions for Vehicles and Bicycles

Look in all directions for motor vehicles and bicyclists before entering the street. Even if it's a one-way street or the crossing signal is in your favor, look around. If crossing the path of a driver waiting to make a turning movement at an intersection, establish eye contact, when possible, to make your presence known.



Bicycling



Go With the Flow

Cars, pedestrians, and other cyclists expect all roadway traffic to come from the same direction. Also, a head-on collision is more serious than a rear-end collision. Ride with the flow of traffic. Narrow lanes without enough room for cars to safely pass you? Claim your space by taking the full lane.

Avoid Blind Spots

Turning trucks and buses cannot see a bicycle in their blind spot. Do not pass when trucks and buses are turning, especially on the side to which they are making a turn.

Obey Traffic Laws & Stay Off the Sidewalks

The rules of the road that apply to motor vehicle drivers still apply to bicyclists. Stop at all red lights and stop signs. If you're going to use the sidewalk, you must walk your bike as a pedestrian per City Municipal Code. Ride at least 3 feet away from parked cars to avoid the "dooring" area.

Be Visible & Predictable – Especially at Night

Do what you can to be seen. A white headlight and red taillight are required by law, and wearing something reflective is really smart. Be predictable by making maneuvers gradually and steadily. Sudden moves increase risk of an accident.

Use Your Hand Signals

Use hand signals to let drivers know what you are going to do.

