

April 1, 2004

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

DOI's Safety and Health Awareness week is April 5-9, 2004. This year's theme is ***"Always Alert - Nobody Hurt."*** During that week, DOI will be conducting safety and health events to highlight the importance of working safely. Look for the safety events that will be occurring at your OSM office. If you work safely, you are more likely to avoid an accident and injury.



Pedestrian safety is an issue that all employees should address. On average, a pedestrian is killed or injured in a traffic crash every 6 minutes. A jet-load of pedestrians (190) is killed every 2 weeks. A pedestrian is anyone on foot; or any disabled person traveling in a wheelchair or a mobility device to help the individual overcome a disability. Walking is emerging as an important part of a healthy lifestyle and can provide a range of benefits. But, walking can be dangerous if not done safely.

Pedestrians are still in a world dominated by motorists, and collisions with motor vehicles do

occur. Most pedestrians are hurt or killed when struck by a motor vehicle. Many pedestrian accidents occur at intersections. Both drivers and pedestrians contribute to these tragedies.

The most important safety tip to reduce pedestrian accidents is to pay attention. You can reduce your chances of being in a collision with a motor vehicle by obeying traffic rules and being aware of dangers posed by vehicles in your vicinity. Make eye contact with drivers, if possible, and make sure that they can see you.

Pedestrians:

- Yield to drivers when crossing a road where there is no intersection or crosswalk; where the pedestrian does not have a green or “walk” signal; and where vehicles have a green signal.
- Do not suddenly move into the path of a closely approaching vehicle that does not have sufficient time to yield for a pedestrian.
- Walk on the left side of a highway when sidewalks are not available.
- Remember that people with poor eyesight may be driving and may not see properly.
- Pay attention when crossing the street, don’t become distracted.
- Stop and look every time before crossing streets, even when they have the right-of-way, and especially at intersections with “right turn on red.”
- Look left, right, then left again, and over their shoulder for turning vehicles.
- Do not drink alcohol and walk. Alcohol involvement, either for the driver or the pedestrian, was reported in 47 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities.
- Cross the street at intersections, never dart out between parked cars. Many local ordinances prohibit pedestrians from crossing roads other than at crosswalks.
- Take extra care at night and dusk or in inclement weather.
- Understand and obey the different traffic signals and know the meaning of the symbol or word signal.
- Provide proper supervision and training for children.
- Use the push button, if it is available. Where push buttons are installed on signal standards, the crossing signal sequence is activated by pushing the button.



SAFETY TIP: Never be in such a hurry that you can't cross the street safely. As a pedestrian, you must take responsibility for your own safety. By practicing pedestrian safety you can limit your chances of an accident.

In Honor
of
- *Suzy Hudak* -