

Pedestrian Safety & Walking Tips

Walking can be a fun activity, an alternative to traveling by car, a way to get exercise, a chance to enjoy the outdoors and a stress reliever.

Sometimes though, accidents happen. Since 2000, Charlotte has averaged 280 collisions annually involving pedestrians and motor vehicles, with 58 of the 1,684 collisions resulting in a pedestrian's death.

Stay Safe Pedestrians!

Here are some things you can do to stay safe and get the most out of your walking experience:

- ✓ **Obey pedestrian signals and traffic lights.** Where there are none, obey traffic law.
- ✓ **Avoid dangerous situations.** Always cross at intersections or pedestrian crosswalks. If you must cross elsewhere, check both ends of the street for traffic and cross the road at a right angle.
- ✓ **Walk on the sidewalk.** If there isn't one, walk on the road shoulder facing oncoming traffic.
- ✓ **See and be seen.** Before crossing a street, always make sure the motorist has seen you and will let you pass. Factors such as sunlight, rain, snow, darkness, parked vehicles and glare from another vehicle's headlights can adversely affect a motorist's vision.
- ✓ **Wear bright colors at night.** Bright clothing or accessories with reflective strips can help you be seen from a distance at night when a road user's visibility is diminished.
- ✓ **Look both ways.** Always look left, then right, then left again before crossing the street.
- ✓ **Carry identification and a cell phone.** If possible, carry a photo id and your cell phone in case you need to call for help.



City of Charlotte – Department of Transportation
600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, NC 28202
<http://cdot.charmeck.org> or <http://walkcharlotte.charmeck.org>