



GET the

FACTS...



Child Pedestrian Safety

In Alberta, traffic injuries are the leading cause of death and a leading cause of hospitalization to children under the age of 14. Many of these injuries result from children being struck by vehicles.

Who is at Risk?

- Boys are injured as pedestrians nearly twice as often as girls.
- Lower income children are at greater risk.
- Children under the age of nine, because they:
 - show little awareness of the dangers of crossing the road;
 - are impulsive;
 - are unable to determine when it is safe to cross the street, as they have not yet developed the abilities to do so;
 - have limited peripheral vision and have difficulty judging how fast a vehicle is coming towards them or how far away it is.

How Pedestrian Injuries Occur

- Injuries are most likely to occur during the evening rush hour from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Areas with high traffic volumes, higher than average speeds and fewer crossing signals put children at increased risk.
- Studies have found that more than half of the pedestrian injuries to children under 9 years of age result from children darting out into the street without warning.
- Fatigue and lack of attention increase the risk of a child suffering a pedestrian injury on the way home from school.
- Driveways are the most common site of non-traffic related pedestrian injuries.

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Preventing Pedestrian Injuries

- Children under the age of nine should always be accompanied by a responsible adult or an older child, when crossing the street.
- Teach children to cross **only** at pedestrian crosswalks or at corners.
- Teach children to **Point, Pause, Proceed** when crossing the street; look left, right and left again before stepping out on to the street, and watch for turning vehicles.
- Teach children to make eye contact with the driver to ensure the driver can see the child.
- Children should only proceed when there are **no** oncoming vehicles in **either** direction.
- Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars and never to run onto the street.
- Children should always walk on the sidewalk. If there are no sidewalks, pedestrians should walk facing traffic.
- Children should wear bright colours to ensure drivers see them well. When walking after dark, children should wear reflective materials.
- Walk the route your child takes to school and watch for dangers. Change the route if necessary.
- Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.
- Drivers need to always be alert for children and adhere to speed limits. 🚶



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