

safety specialist, “but they probably are the most effective way to slow people down.”

Another part of the campaign was to make drivers on base more aware of people on foot. Officials produced a video clip and showed it on local Navy television. They also put up signs to remind drivers entering the base of their requirement to give pedestrians the right of way in crosswalks. Personnel going through the pass and ID office on base saw the same signs.

As one occupational and health specialist cautioned, however, “Although pedestrians do have the right of way, they need to make sure they make eye contact with the driver in the front car in each lane of traffic they are crossing in the crosswalk. Don’t assume that all traffic will follow the lead of the *[driver in the]* first lane and stop for you.”

One Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Sailor made this observation, “The roadway is like a marriage. It works both ways. Pedestrians and drivers need to respect each other.”

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) says it’s not acceptable that nearly 5,000 pedestrians are killed every year in traffic crashes. Their goal is to reduce pedestrian crashes, fatalities and injuries by 10 percent by the year 2008, thus saving 465 lives.

Here are 10 tips the FHWA offers for driving and walking safely:

- It’s your responsibility to drive and walk safely, so always be alert and attentive to the motorists and pedestrians around you.
- Never drink and drive, and don’t let friends drive drunk.
- Always buckle up; the life you save could be your own.
- Obey traffic signals and signs; they are there to keep you and others safe.
- Make sure you have plenty of time to get to your destination so you don’t feel pressured to speed or disobey traffic signals.
- Don’t give into road rage. Your life and the lives of your passengers are more important than angrily reacting to an irresponsible driver.
- Pedestrians always should wear light-colored or reflective clothing at night to be more visible to drivers.
- Before you make a left turn at an intersection, make sure it’s safe to do so. More than one-third of all deaths to vehicle occupants occur in side-impact crashes. Most of these occur at intersections.
- Obey the speed limits, and make sure you drive carefully through intersections and work zones.
- Don’t drive when you’re drowsy. If you’re drowsy, pull over at a rest area, and take a nap before proceeding. **S**

Walking in Traffic

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration urges pedestrians to follow these precautions to protect themselves and their families:

Stay on the sidewalk and crosswalks. Avoid walking in traffic where none exist. If you have to walk on a road with no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.

Cross at intersections. Most people are hit by cars when they cross the road at places other than intersections.

Look left, right and left for traffic. Stop at the curb and look left, right and left again for traffic. Stopping at the curb signals drivers that you intend to cross. Cross in marked crosswalks and obey the signal.

See and be seen. Drivers need to see you to avoid you; stay out of their blind spot. Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy streets. Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you’re

walking near traffic at night; carry a flashlight when walking in the dark. Don’t let kids play near traffic or cross the street by themselves; because they’re small, drivers may not see them if they run into the street. **S**

Resources:

- Hit-Run Deaths See 20% Increase, http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-17-hit-and-run-deaths_x.htm
- Pedestrian Safety, <http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/pedstrns.htm>
- Pedestrian Safety Through Vehicle Design, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedestrian_safety_through_vehicle_design
- Best Practices: Pedestrian Safety (Avoiding Near-Misses in Crosswalks), <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/bestpractices/ashore/crosswalks.htm>