

The Facts

IMPAIRED Pedestrians

Everyone knows that you should not drive impaired, but what many people may not know is that excessive drinking can have the same deadly consequences for pedestrians. Almost one-third of all pedestrians who die in traffic-related crashes are intoxicated, and alcohol involvement either for the driver or for the pedestrian is reported in nearly one-half of all pedestrian fatalities. The majority of these crashes involve males and occur at night, especially on weekends. As compared to sober pedestrians, alcohol-impaired pedestrians frequently cross the roadway from unexpected locations. Here is lifesaving information for motorists and pedestrians.

If You Are a Motorist

- Do not drive impaired. It slows your reaction time, impairs your judgment, and affects your alertness and coordination.
- When you drive, particularly at night around populated areas, watch for sudden, unexpected movements by pedestrians. Scan the road widely and often, and prepare for the unexpected. Slow down!
- If you know someone who has been drinking and is planning to walk, call them a cab or offer to drive or escort them, even if it is only a short distance.

If You Are a Pedestrian

- Remember that alcohol affects your balance, impairs your judgment, and reduces your alertness and coordination. It can also affect your vision.
- Limit how much alcohol you consume, especially if you plan to walk. Do not fool yourself about your ability to walk in traffic safely.
- Be more visible to traffic by carrying a flashlight or wearing retro-reflective clothing at night. During the day, wearing fluorescent colors is best. Wearing white, especially at night, is not enough.
- If you know someone who has been drinking and is planning to walk, offer to call them a cab or escort them, even if it is only for a short distance.



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Strengthening Safe Communities