

# SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

## FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD:

1. Drive the speed limit or slower if conditions require it. The speed limit is set to allow for safe driving speeds and to allow enough time to stop when needed. Pedestrians are almost twice as likely to die if they are struck by a vehicle at 40 mph than at 30 mph.
2. Never text or use other devices while driving and avoid using cell phones even with hands-free options. Distractions of just a few seconds can result in accidents.
3. Obey traffic control devices such as stoplights, stop signs, and crosswalks. They are placed at their designated locations to improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. But, they are only effective if you respect them.
4. Observe the right of way of other drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists

## DON'T BE A DISTRACTED DRIVER:

5. Adjust mirrors, seats, radio, GPS, and other legal devices before driving off.
6. Keep your attention focused on the road, not on your passengers: secure passengers and pets and give children ways to occupy themselves before driving. Avoid arguments with passengers.
7. Don't eat, drink, shave, apply makeup, etc

## WATCH OUT FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS:

8. As a driver, remember that you may encounter pedestrians and bicyclists anytime and anywhere, even in places where they may be unexpected.
9. Pedestrians can be very hard to see, especially in bad weather, at night, or during the late afternoon when the sun is setting. Keep a lookout and slow down if you can't see clearly.
10. Stop for pedestrians who are crossing the street, whether in a crosswalk or at an unmarked intersection.
11. When you stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop.
12. Cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross. Do not pass if there is any doubt!
13. Don't assume that pedestrians see you, or that they will act predictably. They may be physically or mentally impaired, unfamiliar with how to cross the street safely, or just not paying attention.
14. When you are turning, you often will have to wait for a "gap" in traffic. Beware while you are watching for that "gap," that pedestrians or bicyclists may have moved into your intended path. Look to the right again to check that the crosswalk is clear, before proceeding to turn.
15. Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are present.
16. Slow down in neighborhoods! Expect that children or pets may dart out into the street without warning, and drive accordingly.

***Remember: how you drive is a reflection of the respect you have for this community***