



City of
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California

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September Is Pedestrian Safety Month

September is “California Pedestrian Safety Month.” Walking is a healthy, positive, and community-building alternative to driving. But walking can be dangerous. Pedestrians are more and more at risk for death or serious injury. In 2016, 892 pedestrians died on California roadways. That's over 24 percent of all roadway deaths in the state, up from 17 percent just a decade ago.

In Oakland, six pedestrian collisions last year were fatal. And over 200 collisions injured pedestrians. Most of the time, pedestrian injuries are life-changing and permanent.

The California Office of Traffic Safety has one mission: to increase safety awareness. The Oakland Police Department (OPD) and law enforcement agencies across the state will join in support this mission.

This September, OPD officers will conduct targeted pedestrian safety traffic enforcement operations. They will also provide traffic safety outreach presentations to children at Oakland schools. Young people need to practice traffic safety as they walk to and from school.

OPD officers on patrol and Traffic Division officers will enforce traffic safety across the City. Drivers and pedestrians who violate traffic laws will be cited.

Drivers *and* Pedestrians Can Be at Fault

Cell phones are to blame for increasing numbers of pedestrian crashes. When you are driving or walking, don't text or talk on your cell phone. It distracts you when you need to be paying attention.

Reasons drivers are at fault:

- Speeding
- Failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and intersections
- Not seeing pedestrians.

Reasons pedestrians are at fault:

- Jaywalking
- Thinking that they are visible at night
- Wearing dark clothing at night.

Want to learn more? See these California Office of Traffic Safety public safety messages:

- [Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [*Pedestrians Don't Have Armor*](#)

Drivers and pedestrians should always be aware of each other and share the road responsibly.

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