



Hampton Police Division Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Pedestrian Safety

According to the National Highway and Safety Administration in 2011, 4,435 pedestrians were killed and an estimated 69,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the United States. On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every eight minutes in traffic crashes. In an effort to increase public safety and reduce the risk of pedestrians being involved in traffic accidents, the Hampton Police Division will be conducting several operations that focus on violations involving pedestrian safety. To raise awareness, the Hampton Police Division would like to make the public aware of the following tips:

Tips for Pedestrians

- Be predictable. Use sidewalks where provided. Cross or enter streets where and when it is legal to do so. Utilize crosswalks, when available, and obey pedestrian signals.
- Where no sidewalks are provided, it is usually safer to walk facing road traffic.
- Make it easy for drivers to see you - dress in light colors and wear retro-reflective material. Carry a flash light at night and walk in well lit areas.
- Be wary. Drivers are very often distracted and not paying attention. Watch out - make eye contact to be sure they see you!
- Alcohol and drugs can impair your ability to walk safely, just like they do a person's ability to drive.
- Use extra caution when crossing multiple-lane, higher speed streets.

Tips for Drivers

- You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere - even in places where they are not supposed to be found.
- Pedestrians can be very hard to see - especially in bad weather or at night. You must keep a lookout and slow down if you can't see clearly.
- When entering a crosswalk area, drive slowly and be prepared to stop.
- Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk, even if it is not marked. 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.
- Do not overtake and pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians.
- When you are turning, you often will have to wait for a "gap" in traffic. Beware that while you are watching for that "gap," pedestrians may have moved into your intended path.
- Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are active.

Corporal Jason Price will receive questions about this release at 757-727-6638

END