



Safety Bulletin



December 7th, 2018

## Walk Safely Especially During This Busy Holiday Season



## Pedestrian Deaths Are At a 28 Year High

In 2017 there were 5,984 pedestrians killed. The last time we saw 6,000 pedestrians killed in one year was 1990 and ever since it has been on the decline until 2016.

Recently, a business colleague of mine was involved in a situation where he was on his phone walking and walked right into a concrete column chipping his tooth because he was so involved in a phone call that his attention was diverted from noticing his surroundings. I told him you are a "digital deadwalker".

A 2015 study by [American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons \(AAOS\)](#) finds that more than 78 of U.S. adults believe that distracted walking is a "serious" issue; however, 74 percent of Americans say "other people" are usually or always walking while distracted, while only 29 percent say the same about themselves.

This sense of "it's not me, it's you" cuts across a range of distracted walking behaviors:

- 90 % say they see walkers talking on the phone and 37 % admit doing so themselves
- 88 % are engaging in conversation vs. 75 % themselves
- 88 % are listening to music vs. 34 % themselves
- 85 % are using a smartphone vs. 28 % themselves
- 64 % are generally "zoning out," or not focused on walking vs. 38 % themselves



Tips to help pedestrians stay injury free, when walking indoors and outdoors, especially during this busy holiday season:

- If you must use headphones or other electronic devices, maintain a volume where you can still hear the sounds of traffic and your surroundings.
- While you walk, focus on the people as well as the objects and obstacles around you.
- Do not jaywalk. Cross streets carefully, preferably at a traffic light. Remain cognizant of the pedestrian traffic flow and the cars and bikes in and near the road.
- Look up, not down, especially when stepping off or onto curbs or in the middle of major intersections; and/or when walking or approaching on stairs or escalators.
- Traffic can be especially busy during the holidays. Stay alert in parking lots near streets, especially during the winter months when it gets dark earlier.
- If you need to talk to the person next to you, make a phone call or any other action that could distract you from the goal of getting where you need to go safely, stop and do so away from the pedestrian traffic flow.

"The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons urges pedestrians to avoid musculoskeletal and other

## FMCSA Seeks Approval for Study on Truck Maintenance and Safety

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has submitted an Information Collection Request to the Office of Management and Budget seeking approval to conduct a study on truck and bus maintenance requirements and their impact on safety. 83 Fed. Reg. 60946 (November 27, 2018). The FMCSA notice states the goal



of the study is to determine what improvements, ranging from better compliance interventions to better vehicle maintenance requirements, would enhance motor carrier safety. A 2014 study by the DOT's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on the effectiveness of the FMCSA's Safety Measurement System in identifying the highest risk motor carriers to be

targeted for interventions found that motor carriers targeted for intervention due to "vehicle maintenance" issues (i.e., violations) had a 65 percent higher crash rate compared to the national average.

### The study objectives are as follows:

1. Develop an operational definition of "Systematic Maintenance" as required in 49 CFR 396.3(a).

2. Evaluate whether current regulations and the intervention process could be modified to improve compliance with vehicle maintenance requirements. Examples of such requirements include:



- Preventative maintenance intervals
- Preventative maintenance inspections with adequately trained/equipped mechanics
- Adequacy of motor carriers' maintenance facilities.

3. Gather information to assist in establishing minimum standards for inspection intervals, mechanic qualifications and training, and certification of maintenance facilities.

## FMCSA Comments on Exemption for Camera Mounting

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration published a notice requesting public comment on an application for exemption from SmartDrive Systems, Inc. to allow an Advanced Driver Assistance Systems camera to be mounted lower in the windshield than is currently permitted. 83 Fed. Reg. 60942 (November 27, 3018). Mounting the camera in this location does not meet the driver's field of view requirements for windshields. FMCSA regulations require devices meeting the definition of Vehicle Safety Technology to be mounted not more



injuries by engaging with their surroundings such as drivers, bikers, other walkers and obstacles," said Dr. Hilibrand. "Many of us simply need to force ourselves to set down our devices and focus on what's around us. This will ensure that we safely arrive at our destination, during this busy holiday season and throughout the year."

More information on distracted walking can be found at: [OrthoInfo.org/DistractedPedestrians](http://OrthoInfo.org/DistractedPedestrians).

## Can We Talk and Walk At the Same Time?



One of the challenges in combatting distracted walking may be that Americans are overly confident in their ability to multitask. When asked why they walk distracted, 48% of respondents say "they just don't think about it," 28% feel "they can walk and do other things," and 22% "are busy and want to use their time productively."

Among distracted walking behaviors, 75% of respondents say they usually have active conversations with another person while they are walking, making this the most common distracted walking behavior people admit to doing themselves.

## Don't Miss Out on the Weekly Safety Bulletin!

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SAFETY BULLETIN

**Back to School Safety!**  
Recreation vehicle injuries are a leading cause of death for children ages 0 to 14. Adults are back from summer camp, school will be in session again soon and so school buses will be out on the streets. That means drivers need to step up safety around school zones, crosswalks, bus stops and wherever children may be playing outside.

**Back to school without panic... for adults...**

Here are some back-to-school tips:

- 1) Be familiar with school zones. Look in the field of vision where school zones and crosswalks are on routes that you frequently take. Accidents involving children are avoidable, and the more likely to occur the only on routes with school zones are more familiar and quiet.
- 2) Stop for school bus lights. Always stop for school buses with flashing red lights. Drivers approaching the bus must come to a full stop for the duration that the red lights are on. Some school buses have flashing amber lights also, which means that

**School Buses and Lanes**  
Even if you don't have kids in school, you still need to know the rules for school buses crossing the road. Lane laws by state and county can vary. It's a good idea to keep a printed list of rules in your vehicle or on your phone. Following a school bus when it's flashing red lights is illegal in many states. Following a school bus when it's flashing amber lights is illegal in some states. Following a school bus when it's flashing red lights is illegal in some states. Following a school bus when it's flashing red lights is illegal in some states.

than four inches below the upper edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers, or not more than 7 inches above the lower edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers, and outside the driver's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. SmartDrive has applied for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.60(e)(1) to allow an ADAS camera to be mounted lower in the windshield than is currently permitted.

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