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Keeping City Streets Safe is a Joint Effort



Everyone has the responsibility to ensure pedestrian safety in Norfolk.

One way of maintaining safety is the designation of crosswalks. The city works to provide safe crosswalks for pedestrians to use while crossing the street. In order for a crosswalk to provide safety, it is essential that both pedestrians and drivers know how to properly use this tool.

First, it's important to understand the classification of a crosswalk. A crosswalk is part of a roadway at an intersection, directly

between two sidewalks at opposite ends of the road. The crosswalk is measured from curb to curb or from the edges of a roadway. Crosswalks are typically unmarked, so it is vital that both pedestrians and drivers are alert to their surroundings.

### **What is important for the pedestrian to know about safely crossing the street?**

The pedestrian has a responsibility to follow traffic signals and use the proper paths. When a sidewalk is provided and available to use, a pedestrian needs to utilize that sidewalk and not walk along the adjacent roadway. Between intersections where traffic-control signals are in use, pedestrians cannot cross at anyplace except the marked crosswalk.

A pedestrian also has the responsibility of staying in the direct line of the crosswalk, and not cross an intersection diagonally. Pedestrians should not suddenly leave a curb or sidewalk to walk into the path of an oncoming vehicle in which it is impossible for the driver to stop.

### **What is important for the driver to know about crosswalks and pedestrian safety?**

When a pedestrian is crossing the roadway within the crosswalk, drivers in the lane being crossed and in the lane immediately adjacent to the pedestrian, need to come to a complete stop until the pedestrian has completed crossing the roadway. When approaching vehicles stopped at a crosswalk for a pedestrian, it is unlawful to pass the stopped vehicle.

## **What is important for both drivers and pedestrians to know about street safety?**

Both parties hold a responsibility when a pedestrian makes the choice to cross at an area other than a designated crosswalk. Every pedestrian that crosses a roadway at a point other than a crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic. The driver, though, should still exercise caution for the safety of the pedestrians.

Another important way of maintaining safety on the streets is to avoid distractions and be aware of your surroundings. The distraction caused by phones is an issue for both pedestrians and drivers. Pedestrians and drivers should be vigilant and alert while making their commute. Though it may be a secondary offense, texting while driving is illegal.

You can find additional information regarding street safety in the City of Norfolk in the Municipal Code: <https://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/citycode/> Section 24-257, Section 24-258, and Section 24-261. Information about street safety in the state of Nebraska can be found in Nebraska Statute 60-6,153.