

Look Out When Walking to School, Work

Dallas-Fort Worth area schools will host Walk to School Day events Oct. 5, an international celebration of walkable communities and safe routes to school.

Parents, community leaders and faculty and staff committed to helping students walk safely to school and bus stops will take part in the 20th Walk to School Day. The event started in 1997 and is celebrated each October to highlight the health and air quality benefits of walking to school.

In 2015, there were more than 70 Walk to School Day events in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and a record-breaking 5,034 events registered nationwide.

Whether you are bicycling, walking or driving, it is important to look out for one another and understand how everyone should interact together on area streets.

Drivers should always yield to crossing pedestrians, but it's important people walking look out, too. When walking, look left, right and left again when crossing a street, and only cross at crosswalks at intersections. Never cross between parked vehicles or vehicles waiting at traffic signals that could obscure vision of oncoming traffic as well as block a driver from seeing someone walking. Additionally, making eye contact with drivers before crossing a street can determine if a driver acknowledges your presence, which is important to helping ensure a safe crossing. Finally, wearing bright colors and reflective materials makes someone walking more visible during the day and night.

#LookOutTexans

LOOKOUT
TEXANS
BIKE
WALK
DRIVE
SAFELY

Whether walking to school, work or other places in the area, it's important to be alert and look out for cars. A few things to remember when walking:

Tip #1: Cross in crosswalks at intersections.

Tip #2: Do not cross between parked vehicles or vehicles waiting at traffic signals. It's difficult for people driving or bicycling to see crossing pedestrians in these locations. Avoid this dangerous situation by locating a safe crosswalk at an intersection.

Tip #3: Look both ways before crossing a street. Look left, right, and left again to ensure a safe crossing. Be especially aware of turning vehicles.

Tip #4: At signalized intersections, cross only when the signal indicates it is safe.



Walk signal: Start crossing. Be sure to look both ways before entering the roadway.

Flashing or counting down hand: Don't start! Do not enter the roadway; finish crossing if you've already started.

Steady hand: Don't cross! Do not enter the roadway. Yield to vehicles until the "walk" signal appears.

Understanding how people bicycling, walking and driving should interact together is important to improving safety on area streets and protecting our families, friends and neighbors. To see more tips for bicycling, walking and driving safely, visit www.LookOutTexans.org.