



## Safe Driving Around Pedestrians and Bicyclists For Municipal and Truck Drivers



### Let 'Em Walk, Let 'Em Live: Avoiding Conflicts With Pedestrians

- Don't pull into a crosswalk when waiting to make a turn.
- Yield to pedestrians when turning right if they have the "walk" crosswalk indicator.
- Stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian and you have a safety cushion in case you are rear-ended and pushed forward.
- Cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross. Never pass a car stopped at a crosswalk.
- When you are turning, you may 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.
- Look left and right before entering an intersection to make sure that there are no 'late running' pedestrians.
- Be careful near bus stops or taxi stands – passengers might suddenly decide to cross the road.
- If a pedestrian is blind (using a white cane or walking with a guide dog) you should stay stopped until they are safely across the road and out of the crosswalk.

### Two Wheels, Same Road: Driving Safely Around Bicyclists

- Cyclists are often not permitted to ride on the sidewalks and are required to use the roadway.
- Be prepared for cyclists to take the lane: it's their right if they need it.
- Do not honk your horn, this could startle the cyclist and cause erratic behavior.
- Yield to oncoming cyclists when turning left at an intersection, just as you would for motorists.
- Always check your blind spot for cyclists. Be aware of cyclists approaching and passing your truck at intersections – they do not know they are in your blind spot.

### Tips For Safety Around All Road Users

- Move Your Eyes: Look well ahead at least 12 to 15 seconds and look left, right, ahead and into mirrors. Peripheral vision becomes increasingly ineffective as your speed increases, and moving your eyes helps you see to the side. By moving your eyes, you get a 'big picture' perspective of the traffic environment.
- Be aware of factors that might impact your driving ability, such as medications, fatigue, alcohol, weather conditions, and poor lighting or visibility.
- Clean your windows and turn on your headlights for better visibility during rain, snow, or foggy conditions. In snow, brush off your taillights and headlights.
- Slow down - people may not realize how long it takes for a truck to stop.
- Always be ready for the unexpected.
- Do not assume that you have been seen.
- Look behind you before you back up.

#### **Know the 3-Foot Law:**

Keep at least 3 feet between you and a bicyclist or pedestrian. If you can't give 3 feet, WAIT TO PASS. It is legal to cross the center line to pass a bicyclist or pedestrian if there is no oncoming traffic and it is safe to do so. The 3-foot law protects YOU – you never know what might cause someone to move into your lane suddenly.