

# ALMOST EVERYONE IS A PEDESTRIAN AT SOME POINT IN EACH DAY!

San Francisco has always been known as a walking city. Our 700,000 residents walk more than residents of most other U.S. cities – almost 30% of our trips are on foot! We also have lots of visitors who walk to shops, tourist attractions, and to work.

We are certainly a crowded, vibrant city, and crowds sometimes make people behave unsafely. We have about the same number of residents here as in 1960. However, from 1960 to 2000, the number of cars registered here **increased by over 50%**.

The result? Increases in injuries from motor vehicle crashes. Half of all motor-vehicle related deaths in our City are pedestrians, a much higher rate than for other cities. We now rank 4th in the country in the rate of pedestrian death, with 23 pedestrians killed in 2003, and almost 1000 injured. Most at risk are children and senior citizens.

Pedestrians and motorists both share in the responsibility for safety. However, under California law, motorists have specific responsibilities. Many motor vehicle-pedestrian crashes result from a motorist failing to yield to the pedestrian. *Inside this brochure you will find information about a motorist's responsibility and some practical tips on how to help keep pedestrians safe.*



The San Francisco Dept. of Public Health encourages everyone to walk more often as a benefit to their long-term health and to help the environment. Regular physical activity, such as walking, can improve overall health, fight obesity, and reduce risk of heart disease, diabetes and injuries.

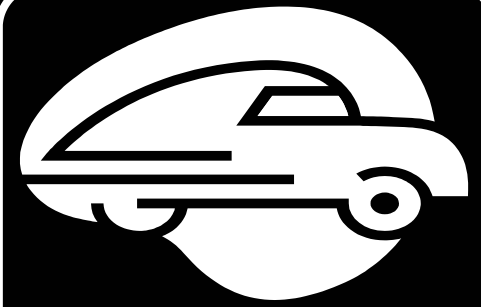
Walking, instead of driving, also improves our air quality, which benefits everyone's health!



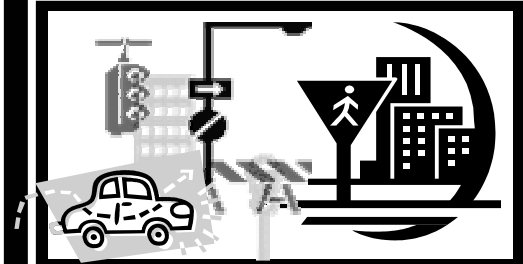
**Walk San Francisco** is a membership organization that seeks to improve San Francisco's walking environment through advocacy and activism that educates residents, businesses, agencies and elected officials – and leads to more pedestrian-friendly streets.

**431-WALK**      [www.walksf.org](http://www.walksf.org)

Assistance in development of this brochure is gratefully acknowledged:  
*Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oakland Pedestrian Safety Project  
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# DRIVERS



# THE SAFETY OF WALKERS



# IS IN YOUR HANDS

## STAY ALERT AND WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS

In crashes with cars, pedestrians are almost always injured. When you choose to drive you are responsible for a bone-crushing vehicle, even at slow speeds! A pedestrian hit at 20 mph will suffer serious injuries and has a 15% chance of dying. At 40 mph, the pedestrian's chance of dying increases to 85%.



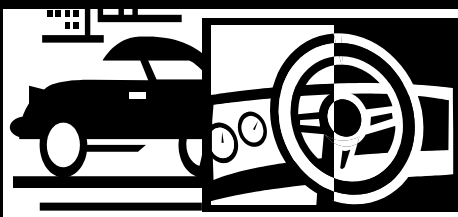
## STOP AND YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS IN A CROSSWALK

California Vehicle Code Section 21950 states that a driver of a vehicle shall **yield the right-of-way** to a pedestrian crossing the roadway at any intersection, **whether the crosswalk is marked or unmarked.**

## THE DRIVER MUST EXERCISE DUE CARE AND REDUCE SPEED TO SAFEGUARD THE PEDESTRIAN

### **Do not pass stopped vehicles!**

Whenever any vehicle has stopped at a crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle. (Section 21951)



### **Stop behind the crosswalk line!**

California Vehicle Code Section 21970 states that no person may stop a vehicle in a manner that causes the vehicle to block a marked or unmarked crosswalk or sidewalk.

## SAFETY TIPS

### **DRIVE SLOWER**

Always drive at a speed that allows you to stop for a pedestrian at an intersection. Watch out for children—who may dart out—and smaller adults. On many of our streets, under some conditions, the posted speed limit may be too fast to allow you to stop in time.

### **PAY ATTENTION**

Research on distracted driving shows that talking on a cell phone, eating, or adjusting the radio or CD player keep your mind off the road. A 3000 pound vehicle has the ability to crush a person. Don't risk it.

### **DON'T PASS MUNI VEHICLES WHILE THEY ARE UNLOADING PASSENGERS**

People pop out of streetcars and scurry to the curb. Wait till the doors close to pull up next to the streetcar, and exercise caution when passing a stopped bus.

### **WALK A LOT**

The more you walk, the more you as a driver will understand the risks that pedestrians face. And, you'll also experience the joys!