



Citrus Heights Police Department

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Pedestrian Safety Starts with You: Stay Alert to Protect People Walking September is Pedestrian Safety Month in California

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September is Pedestrian Safety Month in California. The Citrus Heights Police Department would like to remind drivers to slow down and be alert for people walking on our roads. Always taking extra precautions can help protect pedestrians and reduce the risk of crashes and injuries. Walking should always be an easy and safe option for getting around any community.

According to projections from the Governors Highway Safety Association, 7,318 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes across the United States in 2023. In California alone, pedestrian deaths make up more than 27 percent of all traffic-related fatalities, highlighting the urgent need for increased awareness and safety measures on our roads.

"Every step we take towards greater pedestrian safety is a step towards saving lives," Citrus Heights Police Department Sergeant Kane Kissam said. "We want to remind everyone that safety begins with you, whether behind the wheel or on foot. Small actions, like slowing down, putting away distractions, and yielding at crosswalks, can make a life-saving difference."

The City of Citrus Heights will be staffing additional officers throughout September to enforce and focus on the most dangerous behaviors that put pedestrians' safety at risk. These violations include speeding, making illegal turns, failing to yield, and running stop signs.

The Citrus Heights Police Department offers safe driving and walking tips, including staying off the phone when behind the wheel or walking.

Drivers

- Do not speed, and slow down at intersections. Be prepared to stop for pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks.
- Avoid blocking crosswalks while waiting to make a right-hand turn.
- Never drive impaired.

This media release has been prepared by Citrus Heights Police Department Public Information Officers pursuant to the California Public Records Act and California Government Code Sections § 7923.600 -7923.625 (f).

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Pedestrians

- Be predictable. Use signalized crosswalks where drivers may anticipate foot traffic.
- Watch for approaching vehicles and practice due care crossing the street. At 30 MPH, a driver needs at least 90 feet to stop.
- Make it easier for drivers to see you at night. Consider wearing bright colors or reflective material, and use a flashlight when practical.
- Be careful crossing streets or entering crosswalks at night or on busier streets with higher speed limits.

Share your thoughts about pedestrian safety by participating in the Go Safely Movement, a call-to-action traffic safety survey from the California Office of Traffic Safety. Take the survey at gosafelyca.org.

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