



Staying Safe on the Streets in Fall and Winter Months

Tips for Pedestrians, Cyclists and Drivers



Crashes involving pedestrians increase during fall and winter months due to reduced visibility caused by inclement weather and shorter days. According to ICBC, on average, 76 per cent more pedestrians are injured in crashes in BC from November through January every year compared to June through August.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

- Wear bright reflective clothing or use a flashlight at night or during poor visibility.
- Pay attention – do not text while walking, do not use headphones.
- Before stepping off the curb, look left and right for oncoming vehicles and for vehicles that may be turning onto the roadway from beside or behind you. Make sure that vehicles in all lanes are fully stopped before crossing.
- Always make eye contact with an approaching driver before crossing the road. Assume drivers cannot see you.
- Do not *J-walk* – cross at crosswalks and obey traffic signals.
- When walking on a road without a sidewalk, walk facing traffic so that you can see oncoming vehicles.



Cyclist Safety Tips

- With lower visibility due to inclement weather and darker days, it is important to have reflective gear and lights on your bicycle.
- Do not ride bicycles on the sidewalk – it's illegal to cycle on sidewalks or in crosswalks. Stay to the right hand side of the roadway or in designated bike lanes.
- Use a bell on your bicycle to warn approaching pedestrians and other road users.
- Bicycles are vehicles and must follow all rules of the road.

Driver Safety Tips

- Give yourself extra time to get to your destination.
- Do not tailgate. Maintain a sufficient distance from the car in front of you so that you will have plenty of distance to stop.
- Yield to pedestrians on roadways.
- Watch for pedestrians at intersections, especially when making left and right-hand turns.
- Expect the unexpected – a vehicle stopping in the lane beside you may be yielding to a pedestrian crossing the road.
- Before you or one of your passengers open a vehicle door, check for oncoming cyclists.
- Be mindful of pedestrians when pulling into and out of driveways or parking spots, especially if you are backing up. Pedestrians can easily enter your path without your knowledge.
- Ensure your vehicle is equipped for the weather conditions you will be driving in. Check road conditions and be aware of highways that require the use of winter tires - M+S or a tire with the mountain and snowflake pictograph on it.