



CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*******FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*******

Police to Focus on Pedestrian Safety in June

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In 2009 the Town of Christiansburg experienced two traffic crash fatalities. In both fatal accidents the victim was a pedestrian. The Christiansburg Police Department would like to remind motorists that they are required to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Drivers must also yield to pedestrians at any intersection in a 35 mile per hour or less zone.

To increase the safety of pedestrians - especially in the downtown and courthouse area - officers will be conducting enforcement that focuses on pedestrian crossings and pedestrian safety during the month of June.

The Christiansburg Police Department asks that drivers please be mindful of pedestrians and their safety.

The Department would also like to encourage pedestrians to use marked crosswalks whenever possible.

Virginia Code section 46.2-924 states:

46.2-924. Drivers to stop for pedestrians; installation of certain signs; penalty.

A. The driver of any vehicle on a highway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian crossing such highway:

1. At any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block;
2. At any regular pedestrian crossing included in the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of the adjacent sidewalk at the end of a block;
3. At any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed 35 miles per hour.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, at intersections or crosswalks where the movement of traffic is being regulated by law-enforcement officers or traffic control devices, the driver shall yield according to the direction of the law-enforcement officer or device.

No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic.

The drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or stop if necessary to permit pedestrians to cross such intersections safely and expeditiously.

Pedestrians crossing highways at intersections shall at all times have the right-of-way over vehicles making turns into the highways being crossed by the pedestrians.

C. The governing body of Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, the County of Loudoun and any town therein, and the City of Alexandria, may by ordinance provide for the installation and maintenance of highway signs at marked crosswalks specifically requiring operators of motor vehicles, at the locations where such signs are installed, to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing or attempting to cross the highway. Any operator of a motor vehicle who fails at such locations to yield the right-of-way

to pedestrians as required by such signs shall be guilty of a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of no less than \$100 or more than \$500. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall develop criteria for the design, location, and installation of such signs. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any limited access highway.

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