



Huntington Beach Police Department

2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 960-8811

Julian Harvey, Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE

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September is Pedestrian Safety Month Be Predictable – Look Out for One Another

The Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) is participating in Pedestrian Safety Month throughout the month of September. As part of Pedestrian Safety Month, the HBPD is participating in community-oriented initiatives to raise awareness about pedestrian safety.

Pedestrians are more at risk than ever on the road. Based on recent data from the [Governors Highway Safety Association \(GHSA\)](#), 2020 saw a 21% increase in pedestrians being killed by motorists - the largest ever annual increase. In California, pedestrian fatalities accounted for 27% of all traffic-related deaths in 2019. Just this year in Huntington Beach, 11 pedestrians have been killed by motorists, compared to 8 in 2020 and 7 in 2019. Another [report from GHSA](#) found an overrepresentation in pedestrian deaths amongst people of color, a disparity that has gotten worse.

To promote the safety of those walking, the HBPD will conduct public safety awareness events and enforcement operations. Additionally, to keep everyone in the community safe, please note the following tips for drivers and pedestrians:

Pedestrians

- Be predictable and use crosswalks.
- Stay aware of your surroundings and do not become distracted by your cell phone or other devices.
- Watch for approaching vehicles.
- Do not walk or run into the path of a vehicle. No vehicle can stop instantly. At 30 m.p.h., a driver needs at least 90 feet to stop.
- Be visible. Make it easy for drivers to see you – wear light colors, reflective materials and carry a flashlight, particularly at dawn, dusk or at night.
- Be extra careful crossing streets or entering crosswalks at night when it is harder to see, or when crossing busier streets with more lanes and higher speed limits.



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Drivers

- Follow the speed limit and slow down at intersections.
- Do not use your cell phone or other devices while driving.
- 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.

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