

ROAD SAFETY

Fatalities and accidents on the road occur because someone somewhere is not paying attention to road safety rules. There are a number of factors that come into play while travelling on the road. There are road safety rules for drivers to follow as well as for pedestrians and other vehicles. We will focus on the main road safety rules that everybody on the road needs to keep in mind.

RULES TO BE FOLLOWED ON THE ROAD

✓ **KEEP TO THE LEFT**

Keep to the left while driving and allow vehicles from the opposite direction to pass.

Most head-on accidents happen because we fail to keep to the left and stay in the middle of the road. This is one of the most important road safety rules for drivers.

✓ **SLOW DOWN ON BENDS AND TURNS**

Another mistake most people make is to never slow down on turns and bends. Be all the more cautious when negotiating bends and sharp turns.

✓ **MOVE CAUTIOUSLY AND SLOWLY DURING CONGESTION ON ROADS**

This is another very important road safety rule that most of us ignore. We should move carefully especially at the round-about and road junctions.

✓ **WEAR HELMETS**

Those on bicycles and two wheelers should never go on the road without a helmet. Make sure the helmet is of superior quality and strapped properly.

✓ **REMAIN WITHIN THE SPEED LIMIT**

This is common sense and a basic road safety rule for drivers. Keep in mind that the speed limit is related to the traffic condition of the area. If we come within schools and hospitals limits, just slow down.

✓ **MAINTAIN THE RIGHT DISTANCE**

Often it is seen that collisions occur because adequate distance from the vehicle in front is not maintained. These are important road safety rules for drivers.

✓ **UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW THE ROAD SIGNS**

Road safety rules are a must for all to follow, whether walking on the road or in their vehicles. It can be dangerous for us as well as other people on the road if we have poor understanding of the road signs.

NEED FOR SAFETY OF CHILDREN ON ROADS

- Children are curious, daring and spontaneous, making them vulnerable to accidents.
- Most road accidents involving children happen close to their homes.
- The risk increases when children start high school.
- They cannot determine the direction of the incoming sound.
- They do not know what to watch out and listen for.
- They want to enjoy independence.
- They are fast and unpredictable.
- They get distracted easily.

TOP 10 ROAD SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

1 Crossing the road

On a green light, look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing



6 Getting off a bus

Watch out for cars or motorcycles when getting off

2 Around the corner

Do not run into the roadway



7 Crossing the road without signal lights

Pay additional attention before crossing

3 Do NOT jaywalk

Make sure to use a crosswalk



8 Wear a seat-belt

Children under 13 are safest in the back seat

4 Watch out for big cars

Stay away from big cars turning the corner



9 Do NOT play between cars stationed side by side

5 Do NOT play behind cars

Drivers may not be able to see you



10 Use safety gear on bicycles and in-line skates

Use bicycle lanes when available

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENT

As adults, we are responsible for safety of our children whether they are walking, cycling, playing or sitting in a vehicle.

- ✓ Protect and supervise children in all traffic situations.
- ✓ Use your knowledge and experience to forewarn in impending risky situation.
- ✓ Ensure children hold an adult's hand while walking, wear a seatbelt in the car or wear their bike helmet.
- ✓ Take every opportunity to explain road safety.
- ✓ Remember actions speak louder than words so follow road safety rules yourself at all times.

SOME COMMON ROAD SAFETY SYMBOLS

