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For Pedestrians and Drivers, Safety is Top Priority

Safety should always be your first priority when navigating any intersection whether you are a pedestrian or driving a vehicle. The leading causes of pedestrian injuries involve drivers' inattention (including texting, talking, etc.) speeding, intoxication and a pedestrian suddenly entering the road.

As a pedestrian, one should look both ways and ensure vehicles have come to a complete stop prior to entering the road. Pedestrians should always cross at a crosswalk whenever possible; 73% of pedestrian fatalities occur away from intersections. Pay particular attention to vehicles that may be turning because the driver may not be watching out for you. A good practice is to maintain eye contact with drivers to guarantee that they see you.

As a driver, know that pedestrians *always* have the right of way once they have entered the road, regardless of the presence of a crosswalk. Georgia Law states that drivers must "stop and stay stopped" for all pedestrians during the duration of their crossing. Children are less predictable, so exercise extra caution in areas where they might be, such as near schools, churches, parks and neighborhoods. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 75% of pedestrian fatalities happen at night, therefore, drivers as well as pedestrians should take extra care during the evening hours.