



OLD REPUBLIC CANADA

*Insurance that's with you... mile after mile!*

# SMART DRIVER

October 2025

## OCTOBER IS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH



October is recognized as National Pedestrian Safety Month by the U.S. Department of Transportation and in Canada by various safety organizations, cities, and regions. October marks a shift to earlier sunsets and darker conditions, making it more difficult for drivers to see pedestrians and cyclists at dawn and dusk. As daylight hours shorten, it is a good reminder for drivers to be more aware and stay alert when travelling.

### BELOW ARE FEW BEST PRACTICES TO OBSERVE DURING THIS TRANSITION PERIOD.

In 2023, pedestrians accounted for nearly one in five fatalities in Canada, with provinces like British Columbia reporting record highs. According to Transport Canada, pedestrians account for nearly 17% of all road deaths nationally and fall under the most vulnerable road users.

October is especially timely as more pedestrians will be out towards the end of the month for Halloween and other regional festivals and fairs. Drivers should be aware that on Halloween evening, there will likely be more pedestrians including children on the roads and in unexpected places. Similarly, Thanksgiving long weekends often brings higher road volume.

Pedestrian deaths, especially in dark conditions and outside of intersections, are disproportionately high, highlighting the critical need for awareness during this time. More than 50% of collisions between pedestrians and vehicles happen when drivers are turning into an intersection while pedestrians are crossing with the right-of-way.

- Take extra caution when approaching an intersection. Watchout for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Slow down and be ready to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Reduce speed, especially in busy streets, neighborhoods, school zones, and parks.
- It's harder to see pedestrians when it's dark. Be extra cautious in the early morning and at night, as they might be out without proper visible attire.
- Give the road your full attention. Avoid distractions like texting, cellphones, and headphones while driving.
- Drive within the posted speed limits and adjust your speed in keeping with the weather and traffic conditions. Changing weather conditions such as rain, fog or even snow in some regions can make it harder to spot pedestrians.
- Be more cautious near transit stops and stations. The high pedestrian activity in these locations can be unpredictable.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where drivers can't see.
- Once out of the vehicle, wear bright clothing or reflective materials so others can see you.
- If possible, utilize tools such as collision avoidance systems and/or blind spot monitoring, which can prevent tragedies.





## Knowledge Verification

*Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.*

1. October marks a shift to earlier sunsets and darker conditions, making it more difficult for drivers to see pedestrians and cyclists at dawn and dusk. ☐ True ☐ False
2. More collisions between pedestrians and vehicles happen when drivers are turning into an intersection while pedestrians are crossing with the right-of-way. ☐ True ☐ False
3. Drive with regular speed in busy streets, neighborhoods, school zones, and parks. ☐ True ☐ False

Driver's Name:

Driver's Signature:

Witness Name:

Date:



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## Online Learning Library

At Old Republic Canada, we value safety and education.

Our online Learning Library is a tool our customers can use to enhance their training efforts and keep safety on the forefront of their employees' minds. Below are some additional titles that can be accessed on any mobile device, computer, or tablet. Simply go to <http://orican.infinet-i.net> to get started.

Value Driven Driving:

- Module 1 - Preventing Rear-End Crashes
- Module 2 - Preventing Loss of Control Crashes
- Module 3 - Preventing Lane Change Crashes