

Improving pedestrian safety in North Carolina

Written by Australian Business

September 12, 2013 /**24-7PressRelease**/ -- There is a lot of talk these days about the importance of getting up, getting outside and moving around. As a result, many North Carolina residents are making a renewed effort to include walking as part of their daily routines.

Whether it is for recreation, exercise or simple transportation, walking can have enormous benefits both for people and the environment. Unfortunately, negligent drivers and car-centered communities can make life as a [pedestrian](#) more dangerous than it should be.

Some cities are trying to change this. For example, in the wake of a nearby fatal accident, city officials in Duck, North Carolina are making efforts to improve safety for pedestrians. The city plans to use state grants and local funds to improve signage and create separate paths for pedestrians and cyclists. In doing so, it hopes to improve safety for the estimated 1,000 pedestrians and cyclists and 25,000 motorists that visit the town's main street on the average summer day.

Safety tips for pedestrians and drivers

While Duck's efforts -- and similar initiatives by other communities throughout North Carolina -- are certainly commendable, it is important to remember that there are a lot of things that the average driver can do to avoid accidents and improve safety. All drivers should incorporate the following safety strategies into their daily lives:- Always drive within the speed limit and at a speed that is appropriate for weather and visibility conditions.- Make an effort to be on the lookout for pedestrians, especially when turning or approaching intersections.- Avoid using a cellphone, entering information on a GPS device, eating or any other activity that takes your attention off the road.- Never drive under the influence of alcohol, drugs or mind-altering prescription medication.

There are also a number of steps pedestrians can take to reduce the chances they will be injured in a [car accident](#) , including the following:- Walk on sidewalks whenever possible. If sidewalks are not available, walk on the street so that you are facing oncoming traffic.- Always cross at designated intersections. Try to make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you before you cross.- Make an effort to stay visible. If you are walking at night, consider carrying a flashlight or wearing reflective clothing.

Pedestrian accident lawsuits

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If an accident is caused by a negligent driver, North Carolina law allows injured victims to pursue lawsuits to seek financial compensation for damages including pain and suffering, medical bills, disability and lost wages. If you or a loved one has been injured in a car accident, it is advisable to talk with an experienced North Carolina personal injury attorney who can review your case and help you understand your options for taking action.

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