

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #12

Walk/Don't Walk Signals

Crossing the street, particularly at a busy intersection, can be dangerous for pedestrians. Traffic signals are designed to make it clear to pedestrians when they can cross and when they should not. Here are some characteristics of pedestrian-related signals:



When **WALK** or the walk symbol (see above) is illuminated, pedestrians are advised to check for turning vehicles and then start walking across the roadway. The length of the WALK phase is based upon the minimum start-up time for pedestrians and is typically four to seven seconds.



When **DON'T WALK** or the don't walk symbol (see above) is *flashing*, it is not safe for pedestrians to *start* crossing. A common misconception is that pedestrians should not be in the crosswalk when the WALK sign changes to a flashing DON'T WALK sign. However, pedestrians who are already crossing when it starts to flash should have sufficient time to safely finish crossing.



When **DON'T WALK** or the don't walk symbol (see above) is *constantly illuminated*, it is not safe for pedestrians to start crossing or be in the crosswalk.

Supplementing the use of signals with caution

Even with the help of these signals, pedestrians should use caution and look for traffic in all directions before crossing.

For more information

For more information, please contact _____.