



City of Missoula
Police Department
Press Release

For immediate release

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POLICE PLAN EMPHASIS ON PEDESTRIAN LAWS

Extra Enforcement Set for Thursday

The Missoula Police Department will conduct a Pedestrian Crossing Emphasis Patrol on Thursday, June 27, in an effort to enforce pedestrian crossing laws within the city limits. The emphasis will be in the downtown business area and high foot traffic areas to reduce pedestrian-versus-vehicle crashes. An important point of this enforcement will also be to educate both drivers and pedestrians regarding crossing laws and their respective responsibilities. With that in mind, enforcement of either the laws related to yielding or crossing will be part of this enforcement action.

This is also a good time to remind pedestrians that they cannot begin to cross the street when the pedestrian control head is either solid red or flashing red with the accompanying countdown. The countdown is intended to let pedestrians who are already crossing know how much time they have left to safely cross the street, not how much time pedestrians have to begin crossing. This is an important safety issue as the cross streets at many intersections turn green very quickly after the countdown ends, stranding the pedestrian in the middle of the road when traffic has the green light.

The overall goal of this action will be to increase the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle operators in the area. These enforcement efforts aim to remind everyone that they are not alone on Missoula's roadways. The streets of Missoula are heavily used by many forms of transportation, including motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and wheelchairs, and everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings as well as who they are sharing the road with. This will be accomplished through education efforts and enforcement action when appropriate. This effort will continue through the summer and fall seasons with the increase of pedestrian traffic throughout Missoula related to the college students returning and public schools beginning classes in the fall.

Any questions regarding pedestrian laws and responsibilities can be directed to the Missoula Police Department Traffic Office.

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