



Pedestrian Safety

Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission/ Health and Safety Division
www.awcc.state.ar.us 1-800-622-4472 fax: 501-683-3169
Health&Safety@awcc.state.ar.us

You're a stranger in your own town when you've been away a long time or when you're in an unfamiliar area of town. This is true on the job, too. You work in a certain area and when it's necessary to go to another department, or another part of the building, you're in strange territory. Not that you can't find your way around, but it's how you find your way around that might cause problems.

Let's say you're a machine operator and you've worked at your job for a considerable length of time. When you leave your machine, you're no longer an operator--You're a pedestrian.

Off the job, when you're a pedestrian, you dodge automobiles and bicycles and watch for open utility holes. When you're on the job, the list of potential dangers is different, but the necessary precautions are the same-- you have to stay alert and keep your eyes open.

A walk through the plant should be rather uneventful, but the situation can change in a hurry if you don't stay alert. This is particularly true for employees leaving their own areas or departments.

As a new employee, you were given instructions about your job and these instructions included safety precautions. However, when you go to another area, it can be a new ball game. Operations may be different, equipment may be different, and no doubt safety precautions will vary, too.

So, before entering another area, familiarize yourself with any special rules or procedures necessary for your safety. This might mean you will have to wear special personal protective equipment or observe certain safety regulations specific to that area.

While traveling as a pedestrian, always use the regular routes. Walk -- don't run. Be on your guard at corners and when you're near machinery. Check in mirrors set up at blind corners before proceeding. Watch out for power trucks and hand trucks on the move. Although truck operators have their own safety rules to follow, which include watching for pedestrians, don't take anything for granted. Be ready to move out of their way.

It's a good habit to look both ways before stepping out into an aisle. Wherever there is floor space large enough for a truck, this type of traffic could be moving towards you. Don't try to beat an oncoming truck. You might misjudge its speed or slip and fall in front of it. Don't walk while you're looking in another direction--you could bump into another employee or a machine. If you can't watch where you are walking, stop until you can.

When using a stairway, take advantage of the handrails. Handrails aren't just for the aged and handicapped. They are for everyone.

Slipping and tripping hazards are additional things to watch for. Misplaced tools, pieces of metal or other materials, will send daydreamers sprawling, despite all efforts to keep floors and aisles clear of the dangers.

Another point to stress--don't take shortcuts through work areas or across equipment regardless of how tempting they are. There are good reasons why shortcuts are shortcuts and not regular approved routes. Most likely these reasons are concerned with safety. For example, it can be awfully tempting to just "step across" conveyors, but the results can be tragic. Cross conveyors only at bridges provided for that purpose or at passages.

Basic Pedestrian Safety Precautions:

- Watch for Moving Equipment
- Check Out Blind Corners Before Crossing
- Don't Crowd Power or Hand Trucks
- Keep an Eye Out for Slip and Trip Hazards
- Stay Out of Restricted Areas
- Use Handrails
- Stay Alert
- Watch Where You're Going