



Auburn Police Department

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CROSSWALK SAFETY

Police Department's Message to Drivers and Pedestrians

Drivers and pedestrians in Auburn may have noticed some new signs around town. In an effort to remind citizens about crosswalk safety, the Auburn Police Department has placed signs throughout the city.

“Stop for Me” signs have been strategically placed near crosswalks to encourage drivers to remember to watch for pedestrians. Pedestrians have their own set of signs that read, “Stop. Wave. Cross,,” to remind them to use caution, and to acknowledge drivers before crossing the street.

“We want to make sure that pedestrians are safe and that drivers are abiding the law,” said Police Chief Phil Crowell. “Everyone is in a hurry, but be sure to *think outside your car.*”

Auburn's crosswalk signs are part of a continuing effort by the Auburn PD to reduce distracted driving incidents, accidents and injuries. The initiative was generously funded by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety through a 2014 Teen Driver Safety Grant. The APD's recent “Target: Zero” teen distracted driving campaign was also funded through this grant.

The APD's Traffic Enforcement Unit has also ramped up efforts to improve pedestrian safety in the City of Auburn. Through frequent, targeted crosswalk enforcement details, the Unit has been working to deter crosswalk violations and educate drivers and pedestrians on Maine's crosswalk laws. During these details, TEU officers not only enforce the laws and issue citations, but they also distribute a handy ‘quick reference sheet’ that explains the laws.

Failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk can lead to a \$165 civil citation, not to mention injury or death. Similarly, for a pedestrian, failure to use a crosswalk (or crossing against a traffic control device) can lead to a \$137 citation.

The Auburn Police Department reminds drivers to pay attention and obey speed limits. Never pass a vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk, and use extra care in school zones. Pedestrians should also pay close attention and use common sense. Never cross against a red light, even if there is no traffic. Make eye contact with drivers to make sure you have been seen. Always cross at a crosswalk or intersection – pedestrians do **not** have the right-of-way when crossing mid-block.

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