KENTUCKY INJURY PREVENTION AND RESEARCH CENTER

HAZARD ALERT

Pedestrian Fatalities

Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance, May 2021

What is the hazard?

From 1994-2014, Kentucky saw an average of four work-related pedestrian fatalities per year. From 2015-2019, the average number of work-related pedestrian fatalities rose to seven per year, an alarming 75% increase. The construction industry has seen the most pedestrian fatalities from 1994-2019 (27) followed by the transportation and warehousing industry (20)[1].

Did you know: In 2017, 5,977 pedestrians were killed in the United States, with an additional 137,000 pedestrians being treated in emergency departments for nonfatal crash-related injuries[2].

The following work-related pedestrian fatalities occurred in Kentucky:

Case 1: A construction worker was setting up a work zone on a rural, two-lane highway in order to repair a damaged guardrail along the westbound lane of the road. The crew had set up signs in each direction of travel in preparation of temporarily stopping all traffic in order to completely close the westbound lane. The victim, who was to be a flagger for the eastbound lane, stepped into the road with his back turned to traffic. An approaching car did not see the signs and struck the employee from behind. (2014) (Click here for the KY FACE Report)

Case 2: A school crossing guard was preparing to begin his after-school duties at a rural high school. As the employee crossed the street and reached his station, he abruptly backtracked and stepped into the street. A pickup truck was unable to stop and bumped the employee, who fell backwards and struck his head on the pavement. (2016) (Click here for the KY FACE Report)

Case 3: A traffic control contract worker was walking behind a company pickup truck in the left lane of a major, four-lane interstate, setting up cones in order to close the lane ahead of a planned construction project. As the victim was placing the cones, a vehicle traveling behind a semi-truck in the right lane, and unable to see the employee, quickly steered into the left lane and struck the employee from behind. (2017) (Click here for the KY FACE Report)

Recommendations for preventing pedestrian injuries:

- When working directly in or on the side of a street, wear a Class 2 or 3 high-visibility vest or jacket in accordance with the ANSI 107 standard[3].
- Always walk on a sidewalk or path instead of the road. If a sidewalk or path is not available, walk facing traffic on the left side of the shoulder.
- When possible, always choose to cross the street at an intersection or designated crosswalk. While crossing, never assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers before stepping into their path.
- Avoid looking at a cell phone or using earbuds when walking near or across a street. These distractions may prevent you from seeing or hearing an approaching vehicle.
- If your company has a high number of vehicles driving on property, install a designated walk path that pedestrians are required to use.

Further Resources

Name of Resource	Resource Description	Resource Link
Pedestrian Safety	A CDC-produced document that provides statistics and recommendations concerning pedestrian safety.	https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/pedestrian_safety/index.html
Tips for Pedestrian Safety	A guide from AAA that provides tips of pedestrian safety for both drivers and pedestrians.	https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/pedestrian-safety/tips-pedestrian-safety/#.YFt6U_lKiUk
Powered Industrial Truck—Pedestrian Safety	An OSHA publication documenting potential hazards and best practices for operating forklifts around pedestrians.	https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/pit/workplacehazards/pedestriantraffic.html#pedestrian

Sources

[1] Kentucky FACE Database, Kentucky Injury Prevention & Research Center, University of Kentucky

[2] https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/pedestrian_safety/index.html

[3] https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/638577O/ansi-107-2020-made-easier-high-visibility-apparel.pdf

For additional training materials and information regarding the KOSHS program, please visit the program website at: http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/koshs/index.html

Let us know what you think about this alert. Click here to complete our brief, anonymous survey

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