



Beaverton Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Pedestrian Safety

As the days grow shorter and the infamous Pacific Northwest rain returns, the Beaverton Police Department wants to remind drivers AND PEDESTRIANS to practice safe habits when traveling.

Last year, there were 6,590 pedestrian deaths in the United States – the highest in 30 years. Since 2009, pedestrian fatalities have been on the rise. That’s after a steady decline since the mid 1980’s. In Beaverton, between October 12 and November 6 this year, three people were struck and killed by vehicles. **Three people in less than one month.** While the reasons for these crashes may have varied, practicing safe habits as a driver and as a pedestrian is always important.

“Drivers and pedestrians are both more distracted now than in years past,” according to Officer Bryan Dalton of the Beaverton Police Department Traffic Division. “It’s not uncommon to see a pedestrian listening to headphones or looking at their phone while crossing the street.” Officer Dalton says it creates a deadly combination when both drivers and pedestrians are distracted by their mobile devices.

While it’s perfectly legal to use your mobile device while walking down the street, it’s not always the best decision. “As a pedestrian, if a crash occurs and you’re struck by a vehicle, you may not have been at fault but you are the one who will be injured.”

The Beaverton Police Department aggressively targets distracted drivers citing 1,234 individuals in 2019 for operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device. Nevertheless, pedestrians are still being struck and killed.

Officer Dalton asks pedestrians to, “Stay alert and be a defensive traveler. Don’t be distracted by your cell phone and always follow the rules of the road.”

The Beaverton Police Department wishes everyone safe travels as we head into the holiday season.

##BPD##

