

Tips for Safe Driving at Dusk

Earlier this week, an AUSD elementary school student was hit by a car on the East End. Several days earlier a teen was hit by a car on the West End. Both accidents occurred around dusk.

While we encourage community members to drive carefully at all hours of the day, we urge you to be especially careful in the late afternoon and early evening, when the angle of the sun and growing darkness reduce visibility. We reached out to Officer Adam McCallon of the Alameda Police Department for advice about safer driving. He sent us these tips:

- Keep windows clean to avoid increased glare and condensation.
- Visually scan both sides of an intersection for pedestrians crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- Don't blind others - if you are using your high beams, dim your lights when faced with another driver.
- Help drivers see you in twilight by turning your headlights on before sunset and keeping them on for an hour after sunrise.
- Have your eyes checked regularly for problems which can affect your night vision.
- Be aware that other road users may behave erratically, so be prepared to give them more space.
- Watch out for pedestrians, especially near bars and restaurants around closing time.
- Allow more time for your own journey, so you're not driving under pressure.
- If you can, dim your dashboard lights to reduce reflections and avoid reducing your night vision.

Please remember that students are often walking or riding home around 3 pm in the afternoon and again around 5 pm. And please also remember that the speed limit in most areas of Alameda is **25 miles per hour**. Thank you for driving safely!