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## **ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: CITY DRIVING DISTRACTIONS, EVENTS, AND HAZARDS – BE AWARE AND HOW TO HANDLE**

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While you drive multiple things can occur that can impact your drive and health. Here are a few to be aware of while driving in the city.

**1. Reckless pedestrians.**

Pedestrians who jaywalk or recklessly cross a street are creating a hazard for themselves and drivers. Know that even though a pedestrian is at fault, it is a responsibility of the driver to do whatever they can to avoid hitting a pedestrian. Hitting a pedestrian with a car can be fatal to the pedestrian and have severe consequences.

**2. When children are nearby walking or playing.**

Children do not have the sound judgment to know how dangerous moving vehicles are and can suddenly run to chase a ball across the street or simply to go home. Whenever you see children around while driving, slow down and prepare to stop.

**3. Bicyclists.**

Some bicyclists tend to drive too close to cars. Keep a safe distance from bicyclists on the road. They weave in and out of traffic, obey traffic laws when it suits them, and are unpredictable. Beware!

**4. Drivers coming off a side road.**

Drivers coming on the road from a side road can be just as crazy. They don't see you; they could be backing on the road from a driveway. You have the right of way, but what does that do when you are about to be hit? Learn to expect the worst from any vehicle on a side road or driveway.

**5. Parked car with driver.**

Ever had a parked car driver open his door while you were driving by? Or try to stand in the way of your car? Or just then decide to come into traffic? Every parked car is a potential hazard. Beware.

**6. Children, dogs, and balls.**

All of the above are warnings of what might happen. You cannot assume they see you. You cannot assume they are even thinking. They are dangers to you. Be on the lookout.

Remember to expect the unexpected. That is why you must focus on driving at all times!

*Provided by the ASA – Houston Chapter Safety & Health Committee and* **ADAMS**  
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