M a t e S a f e t y

JAF Accident Avoidance Training | **RISK PREDICTION** | Instruction by Yasuhisa Nagayama, Professor Emeritus, Osaka University

You are driving through a residential neighborhood at night.

The photograph shows the view from the driver's seat as the vehicle approaches a pedestrian crossing. The car in the opposite lane has stopped, and a woman is crossing the road. You are waiting for the woman to reach the other side of the road before continuing through.

Your Position · Weather · Time of Day

It's night, and you are about to go through a pedestrian crossing.
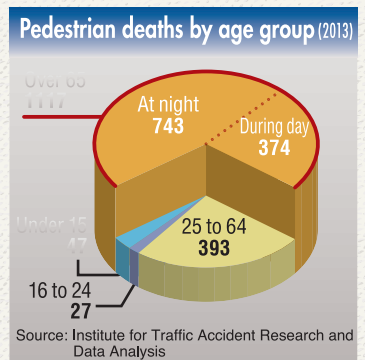
What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER | You should be watching the pedestrian to the right of the car in the opposite lane.

If you had just continued through as planned, you would have collided into the man with a cane who is crossing the road from behind the stopped car. Of course, the pedestrian is at fault because he is not crossing at the marked area and is crossing in the shadow of the oncoming vehicle where you cannot see him, but as a driver, you must also pay close attention in this sort of situation as accidents of this kind are common. If you look carefully at the first photograph, you will notice that the man is visible to the right of the oncoming vehicle. In residential neighborhoods, drivers need to predict where pedestrians will cross, keep speeds down, and remember that a pedestrian can pop out into the road from the left or right at any time.

Pedestrian deaths by age group (2013)

- Over 65
- At night **743**
- During day **374**
- 25 to 64 **393**
- Under 15 **47**
- 16 to 24 **27**

Source: Institute for Traffic Accident Research and Data Analysis

Night-time Pedestrian Accidents

Elderly pedestrians over 65 years old make up 70% of all pedestrian deaths, and more than 60% of those deaths occur at night (see pie chart). In addition, many of the accidents involving elderly pedestrians occur as a result of jaywalking offences such as crossing at an unmarked location or directly in front of or behind a passing vehicle.

Chart: Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography: Norihiro Ochiai