

White Cane Safety Day

October 15th, 2014



Presented by:
Lighthouse Louisiana
123 State Street, New Orleans



**Celebrating the Strength,
Determination and Independence
of Blind People**

6 Departments at Lighthouse

- **Retail Store “Magnifiers & More”**
- **Employment Services**
- **Deaf Services**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Service Contracts**
- **Vision Rehab Services**

**“The blind are not ...
superhuman; we have simply
trained ourselves to use our
remaining senses in ways and
with an attention that the
sighted do not usually employ.”**

*by Christopher Danielsen, Braille Monitor
February 2007*

Blind Statistics

- **Approximately 30,000 visually impaired/blind people who are 18+ in Greater New Orleans area.**
- **Approximately 25,000 visually impaired/blind people who are 18+ in Greater Baton Rouge area.**

Source: 2012 U.S. Census

Lighthouse Louisiana Survey Results

- **20 employees surveyed: 40% who travel independently hit by a vehicle at least once.**
- **1 employee killed in 2006 at the intersection of Tchoupitoulas and State Street.**

*Copy of Louisiana's White Cane Law provided by
American Council of the Blind.*

What is
Blind?



**BLIND
PERSON**

"O&M"

Orientation and Mobility Specialists

provide

Orientation and Mobility training

Orientation = knowing where you are

Mobility = getting where you want to go

O&M Curriculum :

- 1. Sensory Development**
- 2. Techniques of Long White Cane**
- 3. Navigation Skills**
- 4. Accessing Public Transportation**
- 5. Street Crossing Skills**

Getting Across:

- 1. Locating the Street**
- 2. Analyzing the Crossing**
- 3. Preparing to Cross**
- 4. Executing the Crossing**



Executing A Safe Crossing:

- **Step out at the Right Time**
- **Don't Hesitate**
- **Communicate with Drivers**
- **Clear the Cane's Arc**
- **Lane by Lane Awareness**
- **Maintain Straight Line of Travel**
- **Correct for Veers**

Street Crossing Challenges:

- **Street Design**
- **Driver Behavior**

**Making Street Crossings More
Accessible and Safe for Blind
Citizens =**

**Making Street Crossings More
Accessible and Safe for All
Pedestrians**

What the Pedestrian can do :

- **Cross Where Drivers Expect Pedestrians to be**
- **Cross at Times Drivers Expect**
- **Be Visible**

What Drivers Can Do:





What Drivers Can Do:

- 1. Abide by Traffic Laws**
- 2. Stop at Stop Lines (not before or after)**
- 3. Turn Down Loud Music**
- 4. Do not Honk or Call out to Blind Pedestrians**
- 5. Minimize Engine Noise**

What Else?



Improve Street Design

TURNING
VEHICLES

TO
PEDESTRIANS



NO
TURN
ON
RED







**Include Accessible Features
Installed Correctly**



Educate Drivers



Promote Awareness





**Enact Laws to Protect
Pedestrians**



Enforce Driving Laws

Working Together to Improve Safety of Blind Pedestrians

- Pedestrian and Transportation Safety Advocacy Groups
- Traffic Engineers and City Planners
- Public Works Personnel and Contractors
- Educators
- Law Makers
- Public Safety Officials and Public Administrators
- Others

Working together to Improve Safety of Blind Pedestrians through ...

- 1. Street Design**
- 2. Driver Education**
- 3. Passage and Enforcement of
Traffic Laws**

Questions



Street Crossing Lesson

- Please join us for a 15-minute lesson on crossing streets with a visual impairment.
- We will meet in front of the building directly following the meeting.