

# Prevention of Traffic Accidents at Sundown

Many fatal traffic accidents occur at sundown every year. This is because surrounding visibility gradually deteriorates at this time of day and it takes longer for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to notice one another, while also making it difficult to figure out their distance and speed.

Drivers should turn on their headlights earlier. Meanwhile, pedestrians and cyclists should wear brightly colored clothes or use reflective materials and lights, so that people around them can notice them.

Note: Sundown refers to one hour before and after sunset (the time of sunset varies depending on the time of year and the prefecture).

## 1 The Use of Reflective Materials and Lights

The use of **reflective materials and lights** is effective for pedestrians and cyclists to avoid traffic accidents during the sundown and nighttime hours.

While pedestrians and cyclists can notice approaching vehicles, drivers may not see pedestrians and cyclists so well. As such, they are encouraged to wear brightly colored clothes that will make them stand out and put reflective materials and lights on their shoes, clothes, bags, walking sticks, and other belongings, so that drivers can spot them more easily.

Moreover, when crossing roads or passing by vehicles during sundown and nighttime hours, pedestrians and cyclists should take more care than in daytime hours, because it is often more difficult to figure out their distance from and the speed of vehicles.

### Examples of items using reflective materials

#### ○ Reflective items for pedestrians



Reflective wrist band for arms



Reflective jacket



Reflective bag



Reflective umbrella



Reflective sticker for shoe heels



Reflective sticker for bags

### ○ Reflective items for bicycles



Cycle/wheel reflector



Triangle reflector

### ○ LED lights



## 2 Turning on Headlights Earlier at Sundown

Some drivers do not switch on headlights even when they cannot see their surroundings well, and they turn them on only when they cannot see in front of them.

However, at this time of day, it may take longer for other drivers and pedestrians to notice these unlit vehicles or they may move forward without noticing those vehicles. This can cause traffic accidents.

Therefore, drivers should **"turn on their headlights earlier,"** keeping in mind to use them before it gets dim, so that people around them can notice their vehicles. In addition, drivers are encouraged to slow down and drive more carefully and to pay attention to surrounding traffic at sundown, because surrounding visibility gradually starts to deteriorate compared to during the daytime, which can result in more traffic accidents.