



## Don't Assume – Make Sure

The start of Fall is the perfect opportunity to reflect on an important safety concept: Safety often comes down to what we **don't know**. We see something and make a quick assumption about what will happen next. But assumptions can put us—and others—at risk.

Think about what can happen in a neighborhood:

- **A child on an e-scooter approaches an intersection.** Don't assume they'll stop or see you.
- **A pile of leaves is along the curb.** Don't assume it's just leaves. A child, toy or other object could be hidden inside.
- **A ball rolls into the street.** Don't assume the child chasing it will look for traffic.
- **A school bus is stopped with its lights flashing.** Don't assume children have finished crossing—or that you can see everyone who may be nearby.
- **A pedestrian is standing near the roadway.** Don't assume they see your vehicle or know you're approaching.
- **A vehicle is stopped ahead.** Don't assume the driver is parked. They may be preparing to turn, backing up or dealing with a problem.
- **A work zone looks clear.** Don't assume it will stay that way. People, vehicles and equipment can enter the area unexpectedly.

The same principle applies on the job. Don't assume equipment is de-energized, a coworker knows what you're doing, a hazard has been addressed, or a situation will unfold the way you expect.

**Slow down. Look twice. Verify.**

You don't have to predict what someone else will do. You just have to be prepared for what they **might** do.

**No assumptions. Safety first.**