

# Staying SAFE on Big Night(s)

**Your personal safety is of the utmost importance.** Remember: it will be dark, wet, and foggy on Big Night, and driving visibility will be dramatically reduced. Although pedestrians do have legal right of way in most instances, you are responsible for your own safety. *Read on for some tips for keeping yourself safe on Big Night.*

## Wear a Reflective Vest

Wear a reflective vest. Wear a reflective vest. Wear a reflective vest. **Wear a reflective vest.** (This one is really important.)

## Shine A Light

Don't wait for the rain! Make sure you have a big light for Big Night, and enough batteries to keep it bright. Dim lights can vastly reduce both your ability to see amphibians and drivers' ability to see *you*. Headlamps are handy for keeping notes on how many salamanders you've crossed — and for making yourself extra visible to passing cars — but flashlights are key when it comes to looking for critters on the road. Many Crossing Brigade volunteers opt to use both.

## Stay Alert

Driving visibility is dramatically reduced on rainy, foggy nights, and drivers may not expect to see pedestrians in the roadway. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for vehicles, and step off the road as soon as they come into view. In addition, it's quite likely that there will come a time when you see a salamander in the headlights of an oncoming car, and feel tempted to dart into the road for a quick amphibian rescue. *Don't do it!* It's easy to slip while running on wet roads or for salamanders to squirm out of your hands when you're in a rush, putting you in danger. If a car is coming, step aside.

## For more information:

Brett Amy Thelen  
thelen@harriscenter.org  
(603) 358-2065  
aveo.org | harriscenter.org



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## Advice for Families

Big Night can be a powerful experience for kids, but you'll need to take some extra precautions to keep young Crossing Brigadiers safe and sound. Wait until your children are elementary school-aged — and know how to be safe around traffic — before taking them to amphibian road crossings. Scope out your crossing site ahead of time to make sure that it's family-friendly (wide shoulders, good visibility, street lights, slower-moving traffic). On Big Night, make sure everyone in your group is wearing a reflective vest. And maintain a 1:1 adult: child ratio *at all times*, with the primary responsibility of each adult being the safety of the child in their care.



photo: Tim Garceau

This Crossing Brigadier is dressed for success: he's wearing a **reflective vest** and carrying two sources of **bright light** (a headlamp and a flashlight). He's also wearing a brimmed hat to keep the rain off his eyeglasses, so he can see well enough to remain **alert to traffic**.