



WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

Blind Americans Equality Day

October 15

HELPFUL TIPS



Here are some tips on what to do when you see an individual that is blind or visually impaired.

ABOUT

White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States celebrated on October 15th of each year since 1964.

This observance celebrates the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and recognizes the important symbol and tool of independence, the white cane.

1

ANNOUNCE YOURSELF

Announce yourself by name and title and alert the individual when you are leaving the room.

2

ASK IF THEY NEED HELP

Always ask the individual if they would like assistance and how you can assist. Do NOT touch anyone or their mobility device without permission.

3

SPEAK TO THE INDIVIDUAL

Speak directly to the individual, not to their sighted companion. Explain what you are doing.

4

DO NOT MOVE OBJECTS

Do not move objects or personal belongings without informing the individual.

5

SHOW RESPECT

Respect their ability to do things independently. Do not assume that their other senses are impaired (e.g. hearing).

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Scan the QR code for more details or visit
www.rehab.va.gov/blindrehab

