



Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety

The number of pedestrians and bicyclists killed or seriously injured is a problem that is growing at an alarming rate.

In 2016, 867 pedestrians were killed on California roads, a nearly 33 percent increase from 2012. Bicyclist deaths are also trending in the wrong direction, with 138 bicyclists killed in 2016, which is a nearly 25 percent increase over the past five years.

Crash reports indicate that failing to yield, unsafe speeds, driving impaired and pedestrian violations like jaywalking, were the main causes of crashes.

For bicyclists, vehicle right of way, unsafe speed, improper turning, using the wrong side of the road and not following traffic signs and signals were main contributors to crashes.

There are more people out walking and biking to get to work, school, shop or for exercise, but the practice is becoming increasingly dangerous.

In order to reduce deaths and injuries, we need to raise awareness about safe behaviors that create safe environments for those walking or riding a bike.

Coupled with education about rules, rights and responsibilities of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, we can reverse the trend, preventing injuries and saving lives.



When Driving

- Be alert for pedestrians at intersections and crosswalks. Wait for pedestrians to cross street.
- Avoid distractions. Put down the cell phone and just drive.
- Use extra caution backing up. Look for pedestrians or bicyclists who may be approaching.
- Be sure the path is clear before proceeding.
- Be courteous and patient.



When Walking

- Use crosswalks or intersections only, preferably with a stop sign or street light.
- Make eye contact with the driver; never assume a driver sees you.
- Look left-right-left before using crosswalk.
- Look for cars backing up. Don't dart out between parked cars.
- Wear bright clothing during day, reflective materials (or use a flashlight) at night.



When Bicycling

- Go with the flow of traffic, not against it.
- Make yourself visible: Wear brightly colored clothing and retro-reflective tape or markings on clothes, helmet or bike.
- Use lights from dusk to dawn: Front white light and rear red flashing light or reflectors.
- Always wear a helmet. It's the law for anyone under 18.
- Don't block the road. Always let faster traffic pass.
- Watch for parked cars. Drivers may pull out or open door.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping. Stay as far to the right as is safe.



Go Safely California: A Shared Responsibility

We will all be pedestrians or on two wheels at one point or another, and the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians is a shared responsibility.

We must work together to practice safe behaviors on the road.

Let's look out for each other and go safely California!