



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



**For Immediate Release**

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**Bicycle Safety Traffic Enforcement Operations  
Planned for Oakland**

*Oakland, CA* – The Oakland Police Department will step-up bicycle safety enforcement operations on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, with focused enforcement on collision-causing factors involving motorists and bike riders. Special patrols will be deployed to focus on drivers and bicyclists who violate traffic laws meant to protect all roadway users.

Officers will be looking for violations made by drivers and bike riders alike that can lead to life changing injuries.

Bicycle fatalities are rising in California as more people use bicycling for commuting, exercise and recreation. Locally, approximately 600 injury and fatal collisions involving bike riders have been reported to the Oakland Police Department during the past three (3) years.

California witnessed 141 bicyclist deaths in 2013, accounting for nearly five percent of all traffic fatalities, much higher than the national average of just over two percent. Nationally, 68 percent of all bicyclists who died in motor vehicle crashes in 2013 died in urban area crashes. Over a 10-year period (2004 to 2013), the average age of cyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes has steadily increased from 39 to 44.

The following safety tips can save lives and stop this tragedy from occurring in Oakland.

**Drivers:**

- “Share the road” with bicyclists.
- Be courteous; California law now mandates at least three feet of clearance when passing bike riders.
- Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space.
- Yield to cyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.
- Be especially watchful for riders when making turns, either left or right.

**Bicyclists:**

- Wear properly fitted bicycle helmets every time they ride. If under 18 years of age, it’s the law.
- A helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a bicycle crash.
- Riders are considered vehicle operators; they are required to obey the same rules of the road as other vehicle operators, including obeying traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- When cycling in the street, cyclists must ride in the same direction as

traffic.

- Bicyclists should increase their visibility to drivers by wearing fluorescent or brightly colored clothing during the day, and at dawn and dusk.
- To be noticed when riding at night, the law requires a front light and a red reflector to the rear.
- For additional safety, use a flashing rear light, and use retro-reflective tape or markings on equipment or clothing.
- Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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