



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Officer Johnna Watson
Officer Marco Marquez
Media Relations Office
510-238-7230
opdmedia@oaklandnet.com

News from: **Oakland Police Department**



For Immediate Release

June 29, 2016

Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operation Planned for Oakland: Today, June 29, 2016

Oakland, CA — The Oakland Police Department will step up pedestrian safety enforcement operations today, June 29, 2016, with focused enforcement on collision-causing factors involving motorists and pedestrians. Routine traffic patrols will focus efforts in trouble spots while special targeted operations will also be deployed to focus on drivers and pedestrians who violate traffic laws meant to protect all roadway users.

Officers will be looking for – and ticketing – traffic offenses made by drivers and pedestrians alike that can lead to life-changing injuries. Special attention will be directed toward drivers who are speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals, failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks or any other dangerous violation.

Additionally, pedestrians will be ticketed if they violate the law by crossing the street illegally or failing to yield to drivers who have the right of way. Pedestrians should cross the street only in marked crosswalks or intersections.

Pedestrian fatalities are rising in California as more people use non-motorized means of transportation. Locally, the Oakland Police Department has investigated **876** fatal and injury collisions involving pedestrians during the past three years. In 2013, while the national average of pedestrian fatalities was 15 percent, California witnessed 701 pedestrian deaths, accounting for over 23 percent of all roadway fatalities.

A national study reveals that pedestrians and drivers do not obey laws and signals consistently and many often use cell phones, text and listen to music while walking or driving. Only 60 percent of pedestrians said they expected drivers to stop when they were in crosswalks, even though they have the right-of-way.

The following safety tips can save lives and stop this tragedy witnessed far too often in Oakland:

Drivers can:

- Look out for pedestrians, especially in hard-to-see conditions such as at night or in bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk where pedestrians are likely to be.
- Stop at the crosswalk stop line to give drivers in other lanes an opportunity to see and yield to the pedestrians too.
- Be cautious when backing up – pedestrians, especially young children, can move across your path.

Pedestrians can:

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road, cross at crosswalks or intersections, and obey signs and signals.
- Walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible if there is no sidewalk.
- Pay attention to the traffic moving around you. This is not the time to be texting or talking on a cell phone.
- Make eye contact with drivers as they approach. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials (or use a flashlight) at night.
- Look left-right-left before crossing a street.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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