



Be Aware and Share the Road

Whether you're driving in a car or motorcycle, walking or bicycling, the road belongs to everyone equally. As drivers, too often we only look out for ourselves on the road and forget that motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians use the roads to travel to get to their destination, too.

May is National Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. The California Office of Traffic Safety wants to remind everyone to always be aware of your surroundings and share the road with others, no matter how you choose to utilize the roads.

In 2014, 128 bicyclists were killed in California alone. To help prevent further fatalities from occurring, here are some reminders for both drivers and bicyclists to keep in mind:

- Always wear a helmet when biking. A helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a bicycle crash.
- Bicyclists are considered vehicle operators and are required to obey the same rules of the road as others. Obey traffic signs and signals, lane markings and always ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Bicyclists should increase their visibility to drivers: Wear fluorescent or brightly colored clothing and use reflectors or lights on your bike, day and night.
- When driving, share the road with bicyclists. Allow at least three feet of clearance when passing bicyclists on the road and watch for them at intersections and while making turns.

Motorcycle fatalities increased 12.1% from 463 in 2013 to 519 in 2014. To help prevent the number of fatalities from rising, here are some reminders for drivers and motorcyclists to keep in mind:

- Always wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle. A Department of Transportation (DOT) certified helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a motorcycle crash.
- Motorcyclists should position themselves in the lane where they will be most visible. Blind spots often make it hard for drivers to see when changing lanes, so always make sure you are positioned in the best way possible to be seen.
- Always use turn signals as well as hand signals. Draw attention to yourself by combining both, and drivers will be more likely to see you.
- Motorcyclists should train for safety. Both new and returning riders can learn the newest safety techniques through training. Sign up at cmsp.msi5.com.
- When driving a car, always check your blind spots for motorcyclists. Motorcyclists are especially hard to see when changing lanes, so always be aware and check your blind spots twice.

For more information on National Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, please visit www.ots.ca.gov. The California Office of Traffic Safety wants to remind everyone to always be aware and share the road!