

Share the Road: It's Everyone's Responsibility

Tips for Drivers, Motorcyclists, Bicyclists and Pedestrians

Share:    

Soon you'll likely be seeing more bikes on the road. May 8 is Bike to School Day and May 17 is Bike to Work Day; both coincide with Bicycle Safety Month. May is also Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, so it's a perfect time for a reminder to *Share the Road*.

DRIVERS SHARE THE ROAD



For drivers, sharing the road begins with the understanding that **bicyclists** and **motorcyclists** have the same rights as you. They also face unique safety challenges, such as being smaller and less visible. Look for cyclists where vehicles do not appear, like before making a left-hand turn at an intersection. Also, be aware that motorcyclists may have to downshift and weave to avoid bumps and road hazards.

Pedestrians have rights on the road, too. Always slow down and be prepared to yield to pedestrians when they're in a crosswalk. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk, as there may be people crossing whom you can't see. And, be extra cautious when backing up across sidewalks or in parking lots.

MOTORCYCLISTS, BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS SHARE THE ROAD



Just like drivers behind the wheel, **bicyclists** and **motorcyclists** must obey signs and signals. Ride defensively, assuming others cannot see you, and don't let yourself be distracted by music, an electronic device, or anything else that takes your focus off the road. Bicyclists should always ride with traffic, use bike lanes when available and avoid riding on sidewalks when possible.

Pedestrians should also follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals—which are there to protect you. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from vehicles as possible. Always cross streets at crosswalks when they are available; drivers know to look for you there. If there isn't a crosswalk, cross at a well-lit place where drivers can best see you.

PREVENT A DEADLY CRASH

As more Americans choose to ride bikes and walk to stay healthy, and as an alternative to driving, pedestrian and cyclist deaths in motor-vehicle-related crashes have increased over the past 10 years.

Bicyclists: There were 783 bicyclists killed in collisions with vehicles in 2017...

- That's about a 2% drop from 2016.
- However, it's up from 718 bicyclist deaths in 2008.
- In 2017, 53 of the bicyclists killed were children.

Pedestrians: In 2017, 5,977 pedestrians died in traffic crashes ...

- That's down 1.7% over the previous year.
- However, it's up from 4,414 in 2008.
- The pedestrians killed in 2017 included 214 children.

Motorcyclists: The number of people killed on motorcycles in 2017 was 5,172 ...

- That's a 3.1% decrease from 2016.

- However, motorcyclist fatalities in urban areas increased by 15% from 2008 to 2017.
- Motorcyclist fatalities in rural areas decreased by 25% in that timeframe.

Join us in helping to keep everyone safe on the road. Remember, no one—no driver, cyclist, or pedestrian—has sole rights to the road. It's a shared space where we all have rights and responsibilities.

Resources

Bicycle Safety

Motorcycle Safety

Pedestrian Safety

Distracted Driving

NHTSA Information ▾

Information For ▾

NHTSA Sites ▾

Website Information ▾