



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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## NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### OC Sheriff To Conduct Bike and Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operation

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (March 17, 2017)** – The Orange County Sheriff's Department will step up Bike & Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operations throughout the county on Monday, March 20, 2017 with focused enforcement on collision causing factors involving motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The department has mapped out locations where pedestrian and bike collisions have occurred over the last three years, along with the violations that led to those crashes. Extra deputies will be on duty patrolling areas where bike and pedestrian traffic and crashes occur in an effort to lower deaths and injuries.

Deputies will be looking for violations made by drivers, bike riders and pedestrians alike that can lead to life-changing injuries. Special attention will be directed toward drivers speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals, failing to yield to pedestrians in cross walks or any other dangerous violation.

Additionally, enforcement will be taken for observed violations when pedestrians cross the street illegally or fail to yield to drivers who have the right of way. Bike riders will be stopped and citations issued when they fail to follow the same traffic laws that apply to motorists. All riders are reminded to always wear a helmet – those under 18 years of age must wear helmets by law. Pedestrians should cross the street only in marked crosswalks or at corners.

Bicycle and pedestrian fatalities are on the rise in California as more people use these non-motorized means of transportation. Locally, the Orange County Sheriff's Department has investigated 759 fatal and injury collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists during the last three years. In 2013, California witnessed 701 pedestrians and 141 bicyclists killed, accounting for more than 28 percent of all traffic fatalities.

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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