



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Be A 'Roll' Model: OCSD encourages safety, awareness for National Bicycle Safety Month

SANTA ANA, Ca. (May 1, 2017) – The Orange County Sheriff's Department and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) call upon bicycle riders and motorists to be cautious during May's National Bicycle Safety Month, and every other month during the year.

For riders and drivers, being a "Roll Model" means actively decreasing the risks of traffic crashes, preventable injuries and deaths. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 818 bicyclists died and more than 45,000 were injured in crashes in 2015, with deaths rising more than 12 percent from 2014. Over a 10-year period from 2006 to 2015, the average age of cyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes increased from 41 to 45. Alcohol involvement – either for the motor vehicle operator or for the cyclist – was reported in 37 percent of all fatal cyclist crashes in 2015.

"Spring has arrived after a wet winter season, which makes it a great time for family and friends to strap on a helmet, hop on a bike and see just how fun and welcoming our community's streets and bike paths are," said OCSD Traffic Sgt. Brian Sims. "Whether a person rides or drives, everyone should know about bicycle safety now more than ever."

California has the Move Over Law requiring motorist to share the road and pass bike riders with at least a 3-foot cushion. Support community efforts in your community, be involved in bicycle safety, whether while riding a bike, or driving a vehicle. Officers will focus on violations observed by both motorist and cyclist.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department offers these tips and reminds everyone to Be A "Roll" Model:

Ride and Drive Focused - Never ride or drive distracted.

Ride and Drive Prepared - Always expect the unexpected.

Safety First - Always wear a helmet when on a bicycle and a seat belt when in a vehicle.

Know the Rules of the Road - A bicyclist is considered a vehicle on the road with all the rights and responsibilities of motorized traffic.

Share the Road - Both motorist and bicyclist should look out for each other and show mutual respect.



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For more information on Bicycle Safety Month, please visit www.NHTSA.gov/bicycle-safety

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The message to all drivers and motorcyclists is: share in the responsibility and do your part by safely "sharing the road."

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