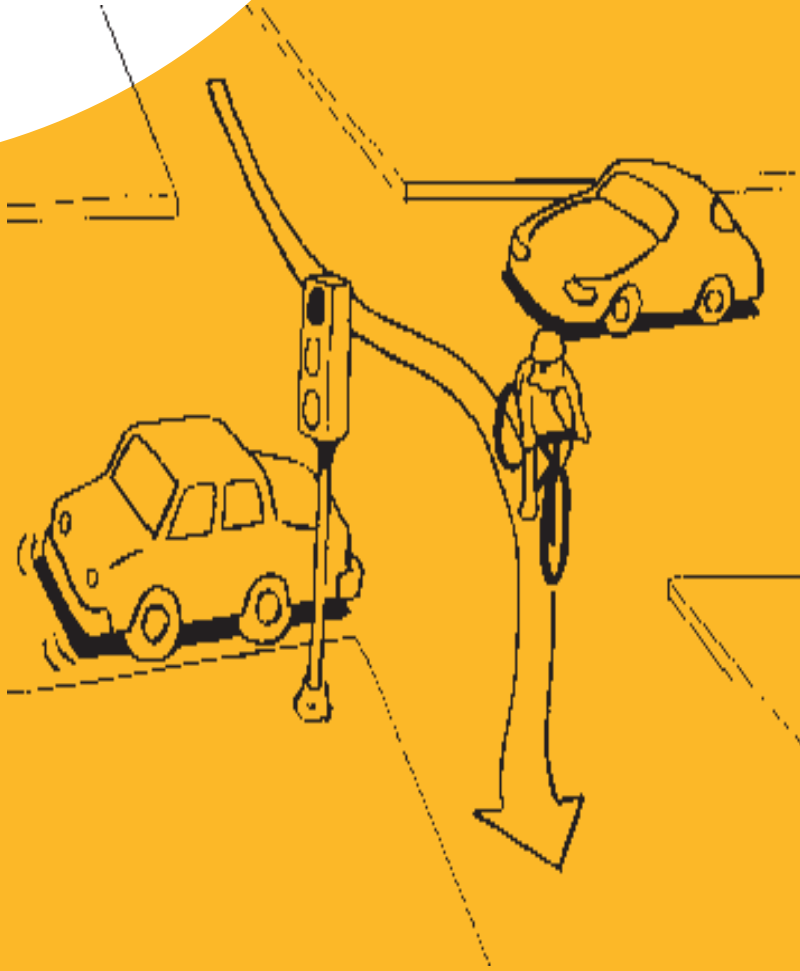




Mr. Bike's

SHARING THE ROAD



WITH BIKES



A MESSAGE FROM CLOUTED POLITICIAN HIRAM N. PAYEM

Regardless of where in the area my job takes me, I often see folks on bicycles. Bicycling can help everyone stay in shape. And we know that as a non-polluting form of transportation, bicycling helps keep the planet in shape too.

Knowing the benefits of bicycling, I think we in government have a responsibility to improve conditions for bicyclists. That responsibility includes helping the operators of all vehicles (both motorists and cyclists) understand how to share the road with others.

We created this booklet to help you share the road with bicyclists. It shows you the common causes of car-bike crashes, and how you can avoid them.

When you drive your car, you know how to respond to other motorists: You signal before turning or changing lanes, yield when you should, and give others the room they need. But you might not know that you should respond the same ways to bicyclists you encounter on the road.

You'll find driving next to cyclists much easier if you treat them as the operators of vehicles. Please use this booklet, as I do, to learn the skills you need to share the road safely and enjoyably.

How to Use This Booklet

How should you use this booklet? First, look at the subjects listed in the table of contents. There, we've listed everything this booklet covers. You'll see what page to turn to for that information.

If you want other information about how to share the road safely in our area, read the list of resources on the inside back cover.

We created this booklet for people who have started learning how to drive, and for those who already hold a driver's license.

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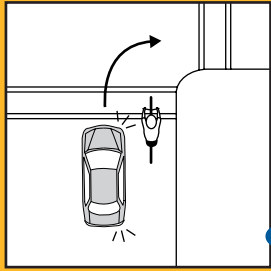
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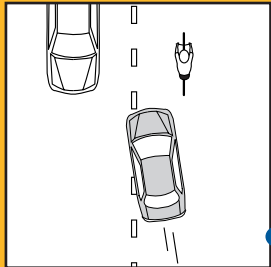
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CAUSES OF CAR-BIKE CRASHES



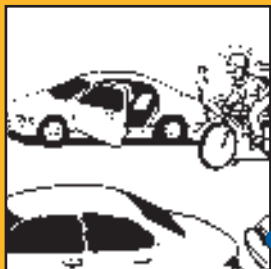
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WHAT CAUSES CAR-BIKE CRASHES?

Nationally, car-bike collisions account for at least one-sixth of all bicyclist crashes. In some cases, fault lies with the motorist; in others, fault lies with the bicyclist.

In either type of case, you can learn to cut your chances of colliding with a bicyclist. How?

- ▶ Learn to avoid the motorist mistakes that cause car-bike crashes.
- ▶ Learn the mistakes that bicyclists make—so that before you encounter one, you'll know how to react.

This page lists the situations that lead to collisions with bicycles. Page numbers tell you where to turn to read how to cut your risk of hitting a bicycle.

Right Hook: 1 A motorist turns right, cutting off or hitting a cyclist going straight. See page 7.

Left Hook: A motorist turns left, cutting off or hitting an oncoming bicyclist. See page 7

Head On: A motorist hits an oncoming bicyclist who rides against traffic. See page 3.

Side Hit: 2 A motorist going straight hits a bicyclist while passing. See pages 3, and 5.

Failure to Yield: A motorist crossing an intersection collides with a bicyclist traveling on the cross street. See page 8.

Ride-Out: 3 A motorist leaving a driveway collides with a bicyclist traveling on the sidewalk or cross street. See pages 8 and 9.

Dooring: 4 A person inside a car opens a door into a bicyclist, or opens a door just in front of a bicyclist so that the bicyclist crashes into the door. See page 4.

Rear End: A motorist going straight hits a bicyclist (also going straight) from behind. See pages 3 and 4.

PASSING & SHARING WITH BIKES

Bicyclists should follow the same rules as other road users. But bikes take up less room than cars. And bikes often (though not always) move more slowly than cars. How does that affect you as a motorist, when you follow or pass a bicyclist? This section tells you.

Sidewalks: Because traffic law defines bicycles as vehicles, **all bicyclists may ride on streets**. In fact, statistics show that bicyclists have fewer crashes on streets. And in some areas bicyclists can't legally ride on sidewalks, but many do.

Against Traffic: Bicyclists should never ride against the flow of traffic, but some do. 5 If you encounter such a bicyclist, avoid hitting them **HEAD ON**. Slow down and give them lots of room to pass you.

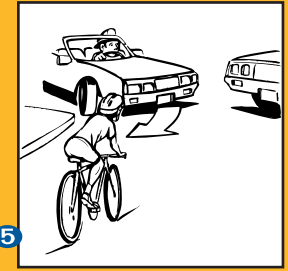
On the Right: Normally, bicyclists should ride in the rightmost lane. They should ride just to the right of traffic, *not* next to the curb—so motorists can see them easily. 6 Bicyclists may use the left-hand lane when passing other vehicles or getting ready to turn left.

In the Middle: A bicyclist may ride in the middle of a lane 7 if:

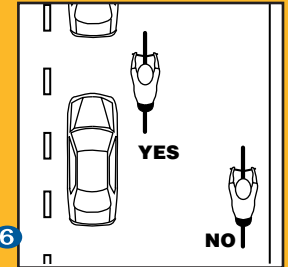
- ▶ They move at the speed of traffic.
- ▶ They judge a lane too narrow for a car to pass them safely.
- ▶ They must avoid potholes, debris, or the door zone (see page 4).

Give 'Em Room: Experienced bicyclists ride in a straight line. But novice bicyclists might weave a bit. If you encounter one, slow down and give them room. And if you pass them, don't lean on the horn!

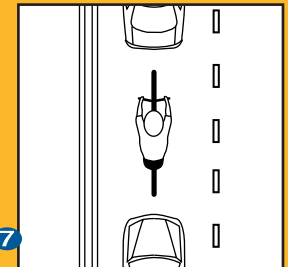
Bikes Swerve: Bicyclists have trouble with things motorists don't: Glass can blow out a tire, and a pothole could throw them. (Note that traffic sweeps debris to the right, where bicyclists ride—so they have to work hard to dodge this garbage.) When a bicyclist comes to an obstacle, they might swerve suddenly. 8 So to avoid a **SIDE HIT** or **REAR END** crash you should pass bicyclists with plenty of room.



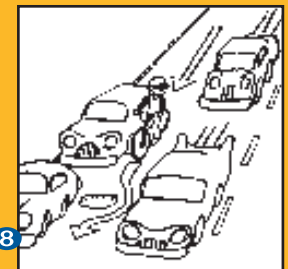
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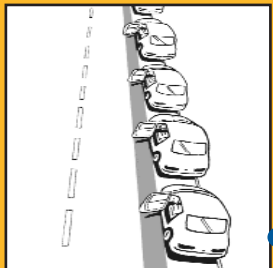
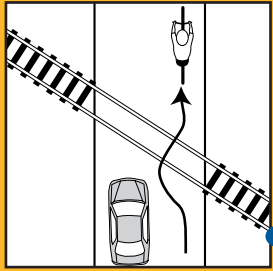
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Rail Tracks: If you approach a bicyclist crossing diagonally-placed rail tracks, ① get ready for the bicyclist to swerve just before the tracks. They do this to cross the tracks at a right angle, so their tires don't get caught.

- Watch out! Cyclists who don't cross tracks at a right angle might fall.

Metal Bridge Decks: Some bicycle tires slide on metal bridge decks, ② causing bikes to swerve. So on bridges, give bicyclists plenty of room.

The Door Zone: Bicyclists think of the three or four feet next to parked cars as the **door zone**: the place where they can get a **DOORING**: hit by a driver or passenger opening a car door. ③ What to remember about the door zone:

- Some bicyclists ride three to four feet from parked cars so they don't get hit by opening doors. When bicyclists do this, don't lean on your horn or cut them off. Pass them safely as described on page 3.
- A bicyclist might ride in the door zone to avoid heavy traffic, or because they simply don't know better. But if car door opens, the bicyclist might swerve suddenly. ④ So when you pass a bicyclist riding in the door zone, get ready to give them more room so you avoid a **REAR END** crash.
- After you park your car and before you open your door, look to the side and back over your shoulder (not just in your mirror) for bicyclists. If you see one approaching, let them pass before opening your door.

Riding Abreast: Two or more bicyclists may ride next to each other when they won't hold up traffic. When you pass bicyclists riding abreast, give them plenty of room as described on page 3.

Law-Breaking Bicyclists: When you see a bicyclist do something rash or illegal, stay calm. Just as you don't try to stop and educate every motorist who does something wrong, don't try this with bicyclists, either. Leave that job to educators and police.

How to Pass: Many car-bike crashes result from motorists passing bicyclists too closely. You can avoid such crashes simply:

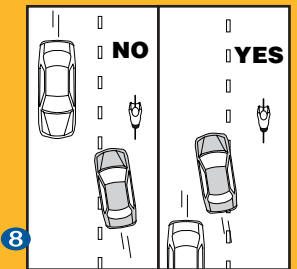
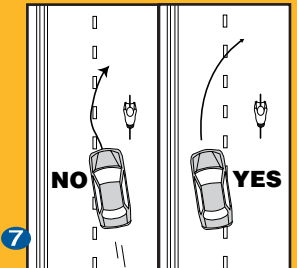
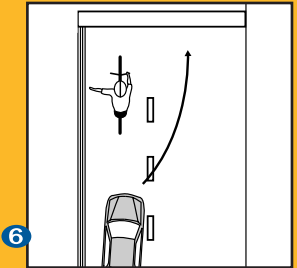
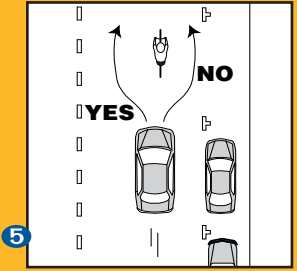
- Pass bicyclists on the left, just as you would any other vehicles ⑤ —unless a bicyclist has stopped in the left lane to make a left turn, and you can pass safely in the right lane. ⑥
- Pass bicyclists no closer than three feet away. **If you don't have room to pass three feet away:** Slow down and follow the bicyclist from a safe distance, until you can pass safely.
- Start passing at least one car length before you reach a bicyclist. When you can see the bicyclist in your rearview mirror, you may then move back to the right.
- Motorists often point their cars where they look. So when passing, look at the place next to the bicyclist where you'll pass, not directly at the bicyclist.

Change Lanes Before Pass: If you can't pass a bicyclist in your lane without going over the lane stripe, change lanes before passing. ⑦

Oncoming Vehicles: With one lane in each direction: When nearing a bicyclist going in your direction and an oncoming vehicle approaches, slow down and let the vehicle pass first—so you can pass the bicycle with enough room. ⑧

Easy with the Horn: When passing a bicyclist, don't lean on your horn; you might spook them. Instead, give your horn a friendly tap.

Big-Vehicle Suck: If you drive a truck or other big vehicle, slow down before passing a cyclist. Your vehicle's wind turbulence could throw the bicyclist.





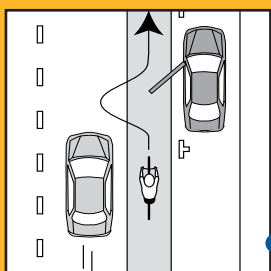
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BIKE LANES

Some towns have created **bike lanes**, lanes in which only bicyclists may travel. As a motorist, you should stay out of bike lanes, and watch out for bicyclists where bike lanes start and end.

How They Look: Where present, a bike lane appears just outside of the outer traffic lane. Its inner side has a four- to six-inch wide white stripe. And the middle of the lane contains a picture of a bike or the words “BIKE LANE.”

- ▶ If the street has no parking lane, the bike lane appears next to the curb ① or a turn lane.
- ▶ If the street has a parking lane, the bike lane appears next to the parking lane. ②

Don't Park: You may never park your car in a bike lane, unless you park to pick up or drop off disabled persons. If your car illegally blocks a bike lane, police may ticket or tow your car.

Keep Out: You may not drive your car into a bike lane unless you:

- ▶ Turn into an intersecting street, alley, or driveway.
- ▶ Enter or exit a parking space.

Entering the Lane: Before you enter a bike lane (for only the reasons shown above):

- ▶ Look both ways for bicyclists traveling in the lane.
- ▶ If you see an oncoming bicyclist close by, don't try to beat them; some bicyclists move faster than you think they can. Wait until they pass.

At Intersections: Bike lanes end at intersections, to show that cars and bikes might move left or right to turn. When you approach an intersection:

- ▶ If a bicyclist appears in front of you, watch to see whether they will turn or go straight, and yield to them as you would any other vehicle.
- ▶ If you want to turn right, first check in your rearview mirror and over your shoulder for approaching bicyclists. ③ If you see one, let them pass before you turn.

Bicyclists Swerve: When passing a bicyclist traveling in a bike lane, stay alert for them to swerve out into traffic. The bicyclist might have to swerve to avoid glass, a pothole, or an opening car door. ④

INTERSECTIONS & TURNS

Most crashes between bikes and cars happen at intersections. What causes motorists to hit bikes? Motorists at fault often say:

- ▶ They didn't see the bicyclist, or
- ▶ They didn't think the bicyclist could move that fast.

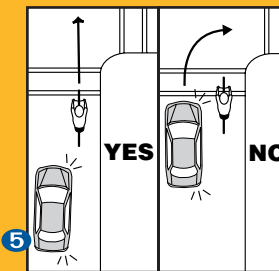
This section helps you avoid the most common causes of car-bike crashes.

Turning Right: Avoid the **RIGHT HOOK** (cutting off a bike rider passing you on your right). Before you make a right turn:

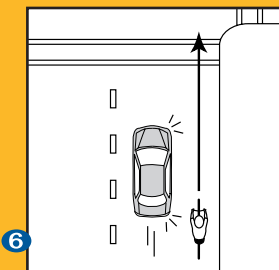
- ▶ Signal well ahead of the turn, even if you see no other vehicles approaching.
- ▶ If a bicyclist ahead of you approaches the intersection, get behind the bicyclist and let them go through the intersection first—just as you would any other vehicle. ⑤
- ▶ Before you move into the right lane, check over your right shoulder for a bicyclist coming up behind you. ⑥ If you see a bicyclist approaching, let them pass before you move to the right.
- ▶ If no right lane exists, you should still look over your right shoulder for bicyclists. ⑦ Bikes can travel fast in the narrow spaces between cars.
- ▶ On the street you'll turn onto, look for cyclists heading toward the crosswalk from the sidewalk on both sides of the street. If you see a bicyclist moving toward the crosswalk, stop and let the bicyclist pass.

Turning Left: Avoid the **LEFT HOOK** (cutting off an oncoming biker rider going straight). Before you turn left at an intersection:

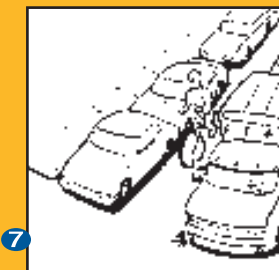
1. Signal well ahead of the turn, even if you see no other vehicles approaching.
2. Look ahead at oncoming traffic to see if a bicyclist approaches the intersection. ⑧
3. If an oncoming bicyclist approaches the intersection, let them go through the intersection first—just as you would any other vehicle. Don't think the bicyclist can't move fast; some travel at 20 to 25 MPH.



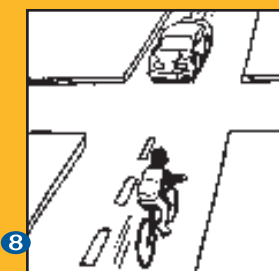
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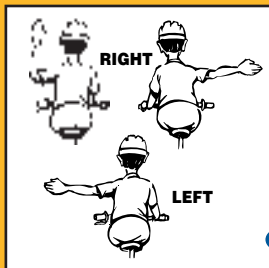
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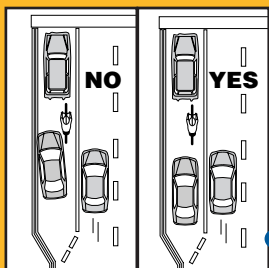
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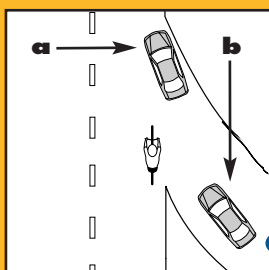
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Entering Cross Streets: If you come to a stop sign, don't **FAIL TO YIELD**. If you come to the end of a driveway or alley, avoid a **RIDE-OUT**. Stop and look both ways for bicycle riders.

► If a bicyclist approaches, let them pass before entering the cross street—*unless they have stopped at a stop sign, and have clearly yielded to you.*

► If the cross street has cars parked on either side, look carefully! Parked cars can hide moving bicyclists.

Bike Crossing: When you approach a bicycle-crossing sign, don't **FAIL TO YIELD**: 1

1. Slow down and look both ways for bicyclists.
2. If you see a bicyclist, stop and let them cross.

Turn Signals: Some bicyclists will signal their turns using their arms. 2 But a bicyclist might need both hands on the handlebars—so before turning, they might simply look behind them.

Left-Turn Lanes: When you approach a bicyclist in a left-turn lane, get behind them as you would another car. Don't stop next to them, which might crowd them out of the lane. 3

► If the bicyclist stands at the left side of the left-turn lane, watch out! After turning they'll end up in the middle of the street, and might suddenly try to merge right in front of you.

Turning onto a Ramp: Before you turn into a right-hand entrance or exit ramp, with a bicyclist ahead of you in the right lane: Let the bicyclist pass the ramp entrance in front of you.

Merging from a Ramp: When you merge onto a road from an entrance or exit ramp, look back on that road for a bicyclist approaching the merge lane. 4

- a. If the bicyclist slows down before the merge lane, pass in front of them—but give them plenty of room.
- b. If the bicyclist moves to get ahead of you, let them pass before you merge.

DRIVING NEAR CHILDREN

Child bicyclists may legally ride on streets, just as adults do. But kids on bikes often move back and forth between sidewalks and streets. When they do, many don't watch for cars. And motorists often don't drive slowly or carefully enough to avoid child bicyclists. This section tells you how.

Leaving Driveways: Whenever you exit a driveway, avoid a **RIDE-OUT**: Stop your vehicle before it reaches the sidewalk. 5 Look both ways for bicyclists. If a bicyclist approaches, let them pass before you go. And before you reach the street, repeat this process—but look more carefully, because parked cars can hide kids on bikes.

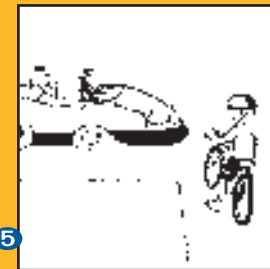
► To find bicyclists hidden by a parked car, look under the car at the ground on the other side of the car.

Entering Driveways: Before you enter a driveway, stop your vehicle before it reaches the sidewalk. Look both ways for bicyclists. If a bicyclist approaches, let them pass before you go.

Passing Parked Cars: In neighborhoods, kids on bikes sometimes enter the street from between parked cars without looking for traffic. 6 **How to avoid them:** When you drive down a neighborhood street, don't drive faster than 20 MPH. And drive at least three feet from parked cars. (If oncoming traffic forces you closer to parked cars, slow down and watch for emerging bicyclists.)

At Street Corners: When you approach street corners where you see kids on bikes, watch them carefully—especially if they seem not to see your vehicle. 7 They might dart out in front of you.

At Intersections: When you come to an intersection and a child bicyclist approaches or waits at the cross street, get ready to yield to the bicyclist. 8 Even if you think you have the right of way, as when the bicyclist stands at a stop sign or red light, the child might surprise you by entering the intersection first.



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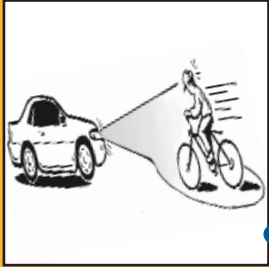


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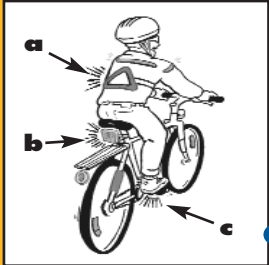


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AT NIGHT & IN BAD WEATHER



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BICYCLISTS AT NIGHT

Headlights: The law requires night bicyclists to have a bright headlight, but many don't. As a result, over half of all bicyclists killed get hit by motorists while riding at night without lights. (Yet only three percent of bike rides happen at night!) And even when a bike has a headlight, you won't see it as easily as you would a car headlight.

Poorly-Lit Cyclists: If you pass a poorly-lit bicyclist at night, remember their direction and speed of travel. 1 Later, if you stop at a place where they might catch up to you, watch carefully for them so you won't hit them.

What to Look for: When you approach a bicyclist from the rear, you might see: 2

- a. Reflective stripes on their clothes or helmet.
- b. A blinking tail light.
- c. The reflectors on their pedals moving up and down.

When you pass a bicyclist at night, give them at least as much room as you would during the day (as described on page 3).

BICYCLISTS IN RAIN OR SNOW

Stopping Distance: When bicycle brakes get wet, they don't work as well. So in wet weather, bicyclists need more room in which to stop. When you merge in front of (or follow) a bicyclist in wet conditions, give them extra room.

Sliding: When wet, some parts of the street get very slippery for bike tires. These parts include metal bridge decks, leaves, sewer and manhole covers, 3 and painted pavement. When you pass a bicyclist traveling over one of these, give them extra room.

Snow Drifts: When drifting or piled-up snow makes it hard for a bicyclist to ride to the right of traffic, the bicyclist might ride in the middle of the lane. 4 If you come across a bicyclist riding in these conditions, don't try to pass them unless you have enough room (as described on page 3).

CRASHES WITH BICYCLISTS

CRASHES DEFINED

An crash, as defined by the state, occurs when your vehicle causes injury or damage to someone or their property, including bicyclists and their bikes. 5

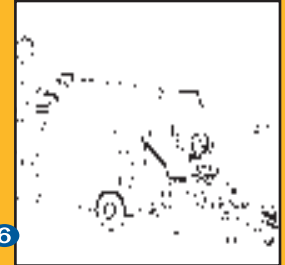
What to Do: If you get into an crash with a bicyclist:

1. You must stop. Move your vehicle off the road only if it might cause another crash. Otherwise, don't move your vehicle until a police officer tells you to.
2. If someone gets injured, try to make them comfortable but don't move them. Have someone call an ambulance. 6 (Ask bicyclists to make sure they feel OK. Some will ride away, not realizing until later that they have an injury.)
3. Have someone call the police. 7
4. If the crash happened at night or in bad weather, use flares, reflectors or flashlights to warn other traffic.
5. Give the following information to everyone involved: Your name; your address; your driver's license number; your vehicle identification number; your license plate number; and the name of your insurance company and policy number.
6. Don't leave the crash until a law enforcement officer tells you that you may. 8

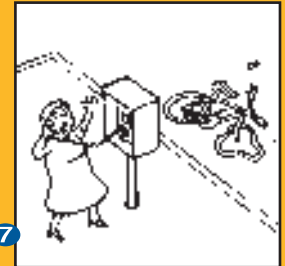
Filing a Crash Report: If you have a collision with a bicyclist, the law requires you to file a report with the Drivers License Bureau. You can get an crash report form from your insurance company, any police department, any Department of Revenue branch office, and the Drivers License Bureau (see page 13).



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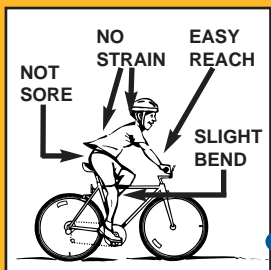
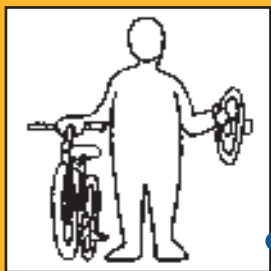


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BIKING INSTEAD OF DRIVING



WHY BICYCLE? ①

Using your bike instead of your car has these benefits:

Save Time: Do you take time out of each week to exercise? If so, you can save that time by combining your travel with your exercise. And for trips of up to five miles, bicycling usually gets you there just as quickly as driving.

Save Money: The typical yearly cost for a regular U.S. commuter to own and operate a bicycle versus a car: \$20 to \$300 versus \$3,300 to \$6,500. Even if you don't give up your car, each car mile replaced by a bike mile can save you some of the cost of owning your car.

Save Our Air: A mile traveled by bicycle instead of a car can eliminate up to four pounds of toxic emissions.

GETTING BACK ON A BIKE

If you haven't recently used your bicycle for going to work or school, shopping, or going out with friends, these tips will help you get back on a bike.

Make Sure It Fits: Your bike should never make you uncomfortable. ② If it does, adjust the the seat or handlebar height, or get a new seat. To learn how, ask your bicycle dealer.

Get Your Bike Ready: These tips will help you make your bike easier to ride:

- ▶ **Air:** Push each tire against a curb. If you can flatten it, add air. ③
- ▶ **Chain:** If your chain squeaks or looks rusty, oil it with a chain lubricant.
- ▶ **Wheels:** Lift up each wheel and give it a slow spin. If it doesn't spin freely and you can't fix it, have a bike mechanic check it.
- ▶ **Brakes:** Each wheel's brakes should stop the wheel from moving on clean, dry pavement. If they don't, get them checked by a bike mechanic.

Get in Shape: If you haven't biked in a while, start slowly, with short distances. See how you feel after a day or two, then try longer trips.

Make It Easy: If you haven't usually biked in rain, in heavy traffic, or on crowded paths, ④ avoid such situations at first. Before you bicycle, check the weather forecast. And choose side streets rather than main roads. But after you start biking more, nothing will stop you!

RESOURCES

Drivers Licenses & Literature

Drivers License Bureau, 555/647-9375
3234 Payoff Station Rd., St. Grabber MX 66643

Motor Vehicle Bureau
General Operators: 555/666-3669
Call the Bureau for the *Drivers Guide*

To Report a Crash

Drivers License Bureau, 555/647-9375
3234 Payoff Station Rd., St. Grabber MX 66643

State Highway Patrol
Troop F: 555/666-4000
Statewide emergency line: 800/555-5555
(cellular: *55)

To Improve Cycling Conditions

Central Bicycle Federation, 555/666-4488
PO Box 104871, Gearhead City MX 66610
gearhead@fed.com
Contact them to learn about local cycling clubs.

League of American Bicyclists, 202/822-1333
1612 K St. NW, Rm. 401, Washington DC 20006
bikeleague@bikeleague.org www.bikeleague.org

To Learn More

ABCs of Driving, MX Divn. of Highway Safety
Interactive, multimedia software that teaches the emotional, social, and legal aspects of driving.
MX Divn. of Highways, 800/555-2358
PO Box 104808, 1719 Morecars Dr.,
Viaduct Heights MX 66610

Urban Bikers' Tricks & Tips, by Mr Bike
250-page paperback on buying and using a bicycle.
Available in book stores everywhere, or contact:
800/888-4741 or www.mrbike.com

To Order This Booklet

Division of Planning, 555/666-2131
County Parks & Recreation
1 S. Patronage Av., Deadweight MX 66605

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STATE TRAFFIC LAW: Bicyclists act as vehicle drivers

*Every person riding a bicycle . . .
shall be granted all of the rights
and shall be subject to all of the
duties applicable to the driver
of a vehicle . . . except as to
those provisions . . . which
by their nature can have
no application.*

Section 324
of the Uniform
Vehicle Code

Traffic rules that apply to motorists also apply to bicyclists.

Because state law mandates that bicyclists act as the operators of vehicles, motorists should treat them as such.

Specifically, motorists should treat a bicycle as a vehicle for purposes of:

- ▶ LEFT AND RIGHT TURNS
- ▶ PASSING
- ▶ STOPPING AT LIGHTS
AND STOP SIGNS
- ▶ YIELDING RIGHT-OF-WAY
- ▶ LANE POSITION



A message from Mr Bike