



## PRESS RELEASE

I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: September 1, 2010

II. ANNOUNCEMENT:

Livermore Police to focus on bicycle related violations in September 2010.

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

During the month of September, the Livermore Police Department will be stepping up their enforcement looking for bicyclists violating the Vehicle Code and motorist driving in a manner which puts bicyclists at risk. The beginning of the school year is a good time to remind all parents and bicycle riders that promoting and practicing safe biking techniques is the first step in preventing bicycle related collisions. If involved in a collision, a bicycle helmet will reduce your risk of a serious head injury by 88% but your #1 goal should be to avoid the collision altogether.

After strapping on that helmet and hitting the street, remember that bicycles are vehicles with the same rights, rules and responsibilities as other road users, always share the road. Since the beginning of 2010, there have been 11 bicycle collisions involving motor vehicles in Livermore. The vast majority of these collisions resulted in the bicyclist suffering an injury and being found at fault for the collision.

Your chances of avoiding a collision while riding your bicycle can be reduced by using safe practices. Always travel in the same direction as traffic, use hand signals, wear bright clothing and look behind you before moving left or right, use a front headlight and choose slow, wide backstreets.

The Livermore Police Department wants to remind the community to ride responsibly and follow the rules of the road. According to 21200(a) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) a bicyclist riding on the street is subject to, and expected to follow, all the rules of the road as a driver of a vehicle. This includes not driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, not wearing audio/radio type headsets, having required lighting during darkness, stopping at stop signs/traffic signals, riding in the same direction as vehicle traffic, etc. 21212 CVC requires that anyone under the age of eighteen who is riding a bicycle must wear a proper fitting and fastened helmet.

The City of Livermore is a bicycle friendly community and would like to encourage its residents to practice safe riding. Together, we can reduce the number of bicycle collisions occurring in town and more importantly reduce the number of people injured as a result of bicycle collisions. We ask that parents review this information with their children who ride bicycles and to take a moment to ensure their child's bicycle helmet fits properly.

IV CONTACT PERSON: Sergeant John Hurd

PHONE NUMBER: 925-371-4850

Steve Sweeney  
Chief of Police

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