



## PRESS RELEASE

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I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: August 10, 2009

II. TYPE OF INCIDENT/SITUATION/ANNOUNCEMENT:  
Livermore Police to target bicyclist violations in August 2009.

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

The Livermore Police Department will be stepping up their enforcement looking for bicyclists violating the Vehicle Code during the month of August. With the nicer weather, and the beginning of the school year, we feel it's the right time to remind our community's bicycle riders that they are required to obey the rules of the road just like drivers operating motor vehicles.

Over the last three years there has been an average of thirty-two collisions where bicyclists were injured in the City of Livermore. Through June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, there have already been fourteen injury bicycle collisions in the City. A vast majority of these injury collisions are found to be the bicycle rider's fault.

In the evening of August 5, 2009, a thirteen year old male was riding his bicycle the wrong way across the street when he was struck by a passing motorist. The juvenile was not wearing a bicycle helmet as required. The juvenile was ejected from the bicycle and struck his head on the roadway. The juvenile was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Oakland to be treated and was found to have suffered a concussion. Had the juvenile been following the rules of the road, the collision could likely have been avoided, and had he been wearing a proper fitting bicycle helmet he may have avoided any serious injury.

The Livermore Police Department wants to remind the community to ride their bicycles safely. 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 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.

If we can get our community's bicycle riders to follow the rules of the road, and wear appropriate safety equipment, 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 that parents take a moment to look at their children's bicycle helmets to ensure that they fit properly.

IV CONTACT PERSON: Sergeant John Hurd  
PHONE NUMBER: 925-371-4850

Should you require further information please call the contact person designated in this press release. If the contact person is not available, and you have a deadline, please call the on duty Watch Commander at (925) 371-4820.

Steve Sweeney  
Chief of Police

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