



**SOLANO
COUNTY**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Public Health encourages drivers, bikers and pedestrians to stay alert and share the road

SOLANO COUNTY – In recognition of June being National Safety Month, Solano Public Health, along with local public health departments around the Bay Area, is reminding the public to share the road with other travelers – whether it is by car, on a bike, or on foot – as summer travel season gets into full swing.

Traffic deaths increased steeply in 2015 and 2016 after previous declines over the last four decades. According to the National Safety Council, more than 40,000 people were killed and over 4 million people were injured in 2017 due to motor vehicle crashes. The youngest and most inexperienced drivers are most at risk – motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional deaths for teens.

In Solano County, more than 30 people die in road crashes each year. Over 2,800 injuries were reported in 2017 alone.

Distraction on the part of all road users is an influencing factor in crashes. Distracted driving, bicycling and walking are ongoing threats to everyone's safety. The simple solution is to always stay focused and alert to traffic and the roadway.

"Nobody wants to take a life in a crash or lose a loved one over something that can be completely avoidable," said Dr. Bela Matyas, Solano County Health Officer. "Tragic consequences can be prevented if people pay full attention to the road and are considerate of other travelers."

To encourage safe pedestrian and bicycling travel, Solano Public Health partners with the Solano Transportation Authority's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program to provide Solano County youth with free educational programs and interactive events. The SR2S program provides parent outreach to promote safe driving behavior, pedestrian and bike safety assemblies, schoolwide walking programs, bike rodeos, and bike repair events to schools. Throughout the year, the program offers community bike rides, helmet fitting, free bike repair and bike skills training at community events.

Here are some safety tips that help drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to share the road responsibly.

Tips for Motorists

- Avoid impaired driving, whether by alcohol, lack of sleep or drugs, including over-the-counter and prescription medication.
- Avoid distracted driving by using "Do Not Disturb" features or apps on your cell phone or by putting your phone away.

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- Drive cautiously and reduce speed when encountering cyclists and pedestrians.
- Watch for cyclists and pedestrians at intersections, crosswalks and when backing out of driveways.
- Obey the speed limit and use proper turn signals.

Tips for Bikers:

- Wear equipment to protect yourself and make you more visible to others (e.g. bike helmet, reflective gear, front and rear light reflectors, LED bike lights at night).
- Obey street signs, signals and road markings and use hand signals to indicate stops and turns.
- Ride consistently and predictably, and don't swerve on the road or between parked cars.

Tips for Pedestrians

- Only cross streets at crosswalks, when they are available, as drivers know to look for you there.
- It's safest to walk on a sidewalk, but if one is not available, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.
- Increase your visibility at night by carrying a flashlight and wearing reflective clothing.
- Avoid noise cancelling headphones that inhibit hearing potential hazards.

For more safety tips and information, go to:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)
[National Safety Council](#)

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