

A Bicycle is Not a Toy, It's a Vehicle

Every year, bicyclists throughout New Jersey are involved in crashes that result in both injuries and tragically, fatalities. While many of these crashes involve motor vehicles, many do not. Injuries can occur in parks, bike paths and driveways.

Injuries to the head are often the most serious and are the most common cause of death among bicyclists. The most severe injuries are those to the brain that cause permanent damage.

The simple safety tips outlined in this brochure can help reduce the chance of serious injuries occurring when bike riding. Following these guidelines every time you ride will help ensure a safe and enjoyable ride.

Wear a Helmet – It's the Law

New Jersey law states that bike riders under the age of 17 must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet that meets the standards of the Snell Memorial Foundation, the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Always ensure a proper fit by tightening the chin strap to keep the helmet from slipping. Only two fingers should fit under the chin strap. The extra padding that comes with the helmet can be used to further adjust the fit.



A child who violates the law will be warned of the violation by the enforcing official. The child's parent or legal guardian can be fined up to \$25 for the first offense and up to \$100 for a subsequent offense. While the law addresses those under the age of 17, all riders are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet.

Bicycles Should be Seen and Heard

Wear clothes that make you more visible. Wearing neon, fluorescent or other bright colors helps you be easily seen by motorists. Under New Jersey law, all bicycles must be equipped with a horn or bell. Use this equipment to alert drivers and pedestrians of your presence.



Avoid Riding at Night

It's far more dangerous to ride a bicycle at night than during the day. Most bicycles are equipped for daylight riding, but need to be adapted for nighttime use.

New Jersey law requires bicycles to be equipped with rear and pedal reflectors. In addition, the bike should have side reflectors or reflective tire sidewalls. If you're planning to ride at night, you must also have a white light installed in front.

Go With the Flow, Ride on the Right Side of the Road with Traffic

Always ride on the right side of the road, with traffic. Ride no more than two abreast (as long as it does not impede the flow of traffic), in a straight, predictable path. Riding against traffic will put you where motorists don't expect you.

Obey All Traffic Laws, Signs and Signals

Bicycles are considered vehicles and must obey the same rules as motorists. Always signal your intentions and be courteous to pedestrians and other vehicle operators.

Hand Signals

