BICYCLE SAFETY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

Bicycle riding is increasing in popularity, particularly in Santa Cruz County. With more bicyclists on the road, we must increase our awareness and review safety practices. Santa Cruz County organizations are working to educate bicyclists and commercial drivers on sharing the road safely and responsibly. Public education materials have been designed for both commercial drivers and bicyclists. The safety information for bicyclists may be found at www.sctraffic-safety.org.

Together, we can create safer streets by following some important rules and guidelines.

#1 RIGHT TURNS
Watch for bicyclists as you make right turns. Right hand turns can contribute to collisions. If a cyclist is at an intersection on your right, wait for the rider to clear the intersection before making a right turn.

#2 BLIND SPOTS
Manage your blind spots, be aware of your surroundings and make eye contact with bicyclists and pedestrians.

Remember to practice these safety measures:
- Set up your mirrors properly
- Use head movements to scan your surroundings
- Be aware of bicyclists and pedestrians
- Don’t enter a space you can’t see

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#3 SLOW DOWN
Slow Down! Urban areas are full of bicyclists, children and pedestrians. Always follow the posted speed limit and advisory signs. Drive at speeds that prevailing conditions allow. Slow down further when encountering glare or other visual impairments.

#4 LEAVE SPACE
Provide adequate space for bicyclists when passing. Consider the cyclist’s environment when preparing to pass. Overtaking vehicles must ensure sufficient clearance for your vehicle and the bicyclist.

#5 BIKEs IN LANes
Bicyclists may need to occupy the full traffic lane when:
• merging across lanes to make a left turn
• overtaking and passing another bicyclist
• riding in narrow roadways
• avoiding debris, potholes, overgrown vegetation
• avoiding doors of parked vehicles

#6 LOUD NOISES
Avoid making sudden loud noises from your horns or jake brakes. They may startle riders.

The following organizations and local businesses are partners in the Mission Street Safety Campaign: California Highway Patrol, City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, City of Santa Cruz Police Department, County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, Community Traffic Safety Coalition, Santa Cruz Bicycle Industry Coalition, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Santa Cruz Metro Transit District, Ecology Action, Santa Cruz County Cycling Club, Santa Cruz City Fire Department, UCSC Transportation and Parking Services, Graniterock, CEMEX, Caltrans, Assemblymember John Laird, Alegre Trucking, Conti Materials Inc., Reliable Trucking and Royal Trucking.

Thanks to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition for providing some of the graphics and text for this flyer.

Thank you for your continued commitment to operating your vehicle in the safest manner possible.