

National Bicycle Safety Month

The Ventura Police Department and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) encourage bicycle riders and motorists alike to be cautious during May's National Bicycle Safety Month, and throughout the year.

The Ventura Police Department reminds the community to – **Be A Roll Model:**

Ride and Drive Focused - Never ride or drive distracted. **Ride and Drive Prepared** - Always expect the unexpected. **Safety First** - Always wear a bicycle helmet when on a bicycle and a seat belt when in a vehicle. **Know the Rules of the Road** - A bicyclist is considered a vehicle on the road with all the rights and responsibilities of motorized traffic. **Share the Road** - Both motorist and bicyclist should look out for each other and show mutual respect.

For riders and drivers, "Roll Model" means actively decreasing the risks of traffic crashes, preventable injuries and deaths. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 818 bicyclists died and over 45,000 were injured in crashes in 2015, with deaths rising over 12% from 2014 numbers. Over the 10-year period from 2006 to 2015, the average age of cyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes increased from 41 to 45. Alcohol involvement – either for the motor vehicle operator or for the cyclist – was reported in 37% of all fatal cyclist crashes in 2015.

The Ventura Police Department will be conducting specialized Bicycle Safety Enforcement Operations throughout the month in an effort to lower deaths and injuries. Extra officers will be patrolling areas frequented by bicyclists and where bicycle crashes occur. The Ventura Police Department will also host a Bike Rodeo at the Ventura Unified School District's Summerfest event on June 3, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 255 West Stanley Avenue in Ventura. Participants will learn bike safety and have the opportunity to test their safety skills by riding their bikes on a closed course. Participants will also be encouraged to register their bikes. More information about bike registry can be found at: <http://www.cityofventura.net/page/register-your-bicycle-submit-change-ownership>.

California has the Move Over Law to share the road requiring motorist to pass bike riders with at least a 3 foot cushion. Support community efforts in our community, be involved in bicycle safety, whether while riding a bike, or driving a vehicle. Officers will focus on violations observed by both motorist and cyclist.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please do your part by safely sharing the road. For more information on Bicycle Safety Month, please visit www.NHTSA.gov/bicycle-safety.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT • 1425 DOWELL DR. • VENTURA, CA 93003 • 805-339-4400
WWW.VENTURAPD.ORG - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VENTURAPD