



Bicycle & Vehicle Safety

L.A. County Fire's Monthly Public Education Campaign

August/Issue 8 of

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Commuting is a way of life in Los Angeles. Each day, bicyclists and motorists share the roads with hundreds of buses, trains, and pedestrians. The Los Angeles County Fire Department wants you to stay safe during your commute, so whether you ride a bicycle or drive a car, follow these simple tips to keep you safe while navigating the open road.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists

Bicycles must follow the same traffic rules as motorized vehicles. When riding your bike in traffic, here are a few safety tips to remember:

- Always obey traffic signs and signals, and follow roadway markings.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Use hand signals before turning, stopping, or changing lanes.
- Ride in a straight line; do not weave in between parked cars.
- Always wear a helmet. Wearing a helmet is the law for children and adolescents under the age of 18 in the State of California.
- Be alert while riding; watch for opening doors from parked cars.
- Riding while wearing headphones in *both* ears is prohibited by law.
- Always yield to pedestrians.
- In rainy weather, use extra caution and give yourself ample room to stop.
- Keep your bike properly maintained. This means checking the air in the tires, the brakes, and the chain regularly. This will help to keep your bike running safely and efficiently.
- Sidewalks are for pedestrians, not bicycles.
- Use reflectors and lights, and wear light colored clothing while riding (especially at night) in order to be more visible to motorists.



Vehicle Safety



Because the County of Los Angeles is so large, the most preferred method of transportation is a motor vehicle. Whether you are the driver or a passenger, the Los Angeles County Fire Department wants you to stay safe. We have offered a few simple facts and tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe while driving.

- All children younger than eight years old must ride in the back seat of a car in a booster or car seat.
- Everyone riding in a vehicle must have their seat belts fastened at all times when a vehicle is in motion.
- During rainy weather, keep a safe distance from the car in front of you in the event you need to brake suddenly. If you use your windshield wipers, your headlights must be turned on.
- When driving, all cell phone conversations must occur while using a hands-free device.
- If using a map app, GPS system, or texting, the same hands-free laws apply.

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