



POLICE DEPARTMENT

54 E Moore St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362-0237
(509) 527-4434
FAX (509) 525-5057

******PRESS RELEASE****WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT******
Bike Safe: Reminder about bicycle laws as summer approaches

May 27, 2014

The Walla Walla Police Department wants to remind motorists to be watchful of bicyclists as riding weather improves and to remind bicyclists of their responsibilities when it comes to obeying the “rules of the road”.

Summer months bring many more bicyclists to our roadways, both adults and children. Motorists are encouraged to be extra vigilant while driving in areas where bicyclists may be present, as children may ride out into traffic suddenly or from between parked cars. Motorists should also provide ample room around bicycles when passing in case of any unexpected movement.

Bicyclists are required to obey all of the same traffic laws as motorists. This includes stopping at stop signs and obeying all other traffic control devices. Bicyclists are also required to ride as far to the right side of the right lane of travel as is safe (with the flow of traffic, not against it), except when preparing to make a turn or overtaking other traffic. Riders are also forbidden from riding more than 2 abreast on any roadway maintained for vehicular use.

Bicycles are prohibited from being ridden on sidewalks in the downtown business district and must yield to pedestrians when ridden on sidewalks in other sections of town. This also applies to skateboards.

When ridden during hours of darkness, bikes are required to use a headlight (front white light visible from a distance of at least 500’) and a rear reflector (visible from a minimum of 600’ by a vehicle using low-beam headlights). Bicyclists are cautioned not to use or position the headlight on their bikes in such a way that would be blinding to approaching drivers or to use a strobe function on the headlight.

Violations of any of the above ordinances are an infraction and can lead to a monetary fine, impoundment, or both.

City ordinance also requires bicycles to be licensed. A non-expiring bike license can be purchased for \$5.00 at the police department during regular lobby hours—8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Unlicensed bicycles can be subject to impoundment. Victims of bicycle theft are much more likely to have their bike returned if it has been licensed. The vast majority of recovered stolen bicycles end up being sold because the identity of the owner is unknown.

###

Tim Bennett #245
Public Information Officer
Walla Walla Police Dept.
(509)524-4381