



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

**A Message From the Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force
&
The Walla Walla Police Department**

March 31, 2015

Safety is a shared responsibility. At one time or another, we are a driver, pedestrian or cyclist. With warmer weather and vacations just around the corner, the Walla Walla Police Department and Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force want to remind everyone – pedestrians, cyclists and drivers – to be aware of those around you and to follow the rules of the road.

As a cyclist:

- Be predictable. Signal your intentions to others. Use hand signals, look over your shoulder before changing lanes, ride in a straight line on the right side of the road. Expect that other vehicles do not see you.
- Go with the flow of traffic, not against it.
- Be ready to stop at driveways and intersections.
- Watch for uneven pavement. Ride on bike paths and bike trails if they are available.
- Give parked cars a 3-foot berth in case someone opens a door in your path.
- Make yourself and your bicycle visible at all times, especially at night and in dim light. Wear bright, reflective clothing and use white lights in front and red reflectors or lights in the rear as required by all States.
- Do NOT blind oncoming traffic by using headlights in strobe or flash mode after dark.
- Wear a properly fitted, certified helmet on every ride.
- Ride sober. Alcohol affects balance, judgment and reaction time.

As a pedestrian:

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks. If sidewalks are not available, walk on the edge of the road facing oncoming traffic.
- Cross at marked crosswalks or intersections. This is where drivers expect to see you.
- Make eye contact with stopped drivers to make sure they see you before crossing in front of them.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.
- Watch your kids. Small children should not cross streets by themselves or be allowed to play or walk near traffic. Kids cannot accurately judge vehicle distances and speeds and may make unpredictable movements.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking. They impair your judgment and your abilities.



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When you are driving:

- Be predictable. Signal your intentions to others and anticipate what other road users may do.
- Put cell phones down.
- Look out for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions such as nighttime, bright sunshine or in bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians too.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk.
- Follow the speed limit.
- Follow slower speed limits in school zones and in neighborhoods where there are children present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up. Pedestrians and cyclists can easily be in your blind spot.
- Allow enough room when passing bicyclists, as you would when passing another vehicle.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.