



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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******PRESS RELEASE****WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT******
Traffic Emphasis on Keeping Bicyclists & Pedestrians Safe

March 25, 2015

The police department's second traffic safety emphasis of the year will be April 1st-May 15th. Through education and enforcement, officers will be focused on keeping bicyclists and pedestrians safe while walking and riding around town.

Nearly every collision could be prevented if all motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, obeyed all "rules of the road", remained free from distracting devices and alcohol or drugs, and watchful of all other traffic around them.

Officers will be increasing contacts with violators, whether they are walking, riding, or driving, to remind them of the shared responsibility we all have to ensure the safety of everyone. While most interactions will be handled with a verbal warning, blatant violations could lead to the issuance of a traffic infraction.

Warmer weather means more bicyclists on 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 or using headphones or ear-buds.

During the emphasis period, pedestrians will be reminded not to J-walk and obey traffic control devices when present.

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