Bicyclists Must:

* Must ride in the same direction as other traffic, not against it.

* Shall ride as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as practicable—not on the sidewalk—except in the following situations:
   1. when overtaking or passing another bicycle or vehicle; when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway;
   2. when necessary to avoid conditions such as, fixed or moving objects, surface hazards and debris;
   3. when the lane is too narrow to be safely shared side-by-side within the lane; and
   4. when approaching a place where a right turn is authorized.

* May choose to ride near the left curb or edge of a one-way street.

* Should ride single file on a busy or narrow street.

* Must make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes. If the bicyclist is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than ride next to the curb and block traffic making right turns.

* Must signal all their intentions to motorists and bicyclists near them.

* Must wear a helmet if under the age of 18.

* Should carry identification.

Shall not operate a bicycle on a roadway during darkness unless the bicycle is equipped with:

* Bicycle riders on public roads have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists, and are subject to the same rules and regulations. Refer to the California Driver Handbook to become familiar with these rules.

* Must make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes. If the bicyclist is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than ride next to the curb and block traffic making right turns.

* Must signal all their intentions to motorists and bicyclists near them.

* Must wear a helmet if under the age of 18.

* Should carry identification.

Not to operate a bicycle on a roadway during darkness unless the bicycle is equipped with:

1. A brake which will enable the operator to make one braked wheel skid on dry level, clean pavement.

2. A front lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet.

3. A rear red reflector visible from a distance of 500 feet.

4. A white or yellow reflector on each pedal visible from a distance of 200 feet.

Motor Vehicle Drivers Must:

1. Pass a bicyclist as they would a slow moving-vehicle. Pass with caution, and only when safe. Look carefully for bicyclists before opening doors to moving traffic or before turning.

2. When turning right, safely merge toward the curb or onto the bike lane behind the bicyclist just before making a turn. Merge first, then turn.

3. When passing a bicyclist do not squeeze the bicyclist off the road, always allow a clearance of at least three feet to safely pass a bicyclist.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists and Motorists

Bicyclists are aware of basic safety. However, these basics are not enough to keep them safe. The basics for safe bicycling are to:

1. Maintain control of your bicycle.

2. Protect yourself—Reduce the risk of head injury by always wearing a helmet.

3. Be visible, alert, and communicate your intentions.

4. Ride with traffic.

It is unlawful to operate a bicycle while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug (VC 92205.5). Convictions are punishable by a fee of up to $200. If you are under 21, but over 13 years of age, your driving privilege will be suspended or delayed for one year once you are eligible to drive.

1. Prepare Yourself—Reduction of head injury by always wearing a helmet. Helmets provide protection. By law, bicycle riders under 18 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet while riding on a public road (VC 62112). Wear your helmet correctly!

2. Application of Brakes

Even if you obey all traffic laws, there is always a risk of being hit by a motorist who is not obeying the laws, or who simply does not see you. Ride carefully—Vehicles waiting at stop signs, in driveways, or parking spaces may suddenly pull out in front of you. Watch for vehicles that have just passed you and may turn right, as well as vehicles across the street that may turn left in front of you. Be prepared to stop or take evasive action. Signal before making turns or changing lanes to warn traffic around you. If you signal a turn, look behind you, over your left shoulder, and then extend your left arm out. If you signal a turn, hold your left arm up with your elbow bent (you may also hold your right arm straight and point to the right). You do not have to keep your arm extended while completing the maneuver—Always have at least one hand on the handlebars to maintain control. To signal that you are slowing or stopping, extend your left arm down.

Using lights and reflectors at night is the law (VC 62211). Increase your visibility by wearing light or bright colored clothes, such as yellow or lime green. Red appears black in fading light and is not a good choice for riding in the evening. Mirrors provide opportunities for increased awareness of your surroundings, but mirrors extend only as an aid. Always look over your shoulder to make sure the lane is clear before turning or changing lanes. Make sure your brakes are in good working order.

4. Ride With Traffic

Ride in the same direction as the traffic. This will make you more visible to drivers entering roads or changing lanes because they will know where to look for possible conflicts. On a one-way street, you may ride on the left as long as you are riding with traffic.

Hazards

1. Keep your eyes on the road ahead.

2. Avoid running over potholes, gravel, broken glass, drainage-grates, puddles you can't see through, or other unsafe road conditions.

3. Look over your shoulder to avoid swerving suddenly into traffic.

4. Always signal before changing lanes.

Bicyclists Must obey STOP signs and red signal lights. It's a good idea to stop for yellow lights too—passing through a yellow light may not leave you enough time to make it across the intersection before the light changes.

Be Prepared to Stop

1. Using Traffic Lanes

As you approach the intersection, look over your left shoulder for traffic. If clear, signal your turn and move over to the left side of the lane, or into the left or center turn lane. Position yourself so that vehicles going straight cannot pass you on your left while you are making your left hand turn. Yield to oncoming traffic before turning. If you are riding in a bicycle lane, or on a multi-lane road, you need to look and signal each time you change lanes. Never make a left turn from the right side of the road, even if you're in a bicycle lane.

2. Using Crosswalks

Approach the intersection staying on the right. Stop for either a red light or a stop sign. When the light turns green or it's safe to proceed, cross the intersection in the new direction as a pedestrian in the crosswalk. When across the intersection, make a 90 degree turn to the left so that you are facing the direction in which you desire to go. When the light turns green or it's safe to proceed, cross the intersection, and then proceed on the new direction as a pedestrian in the crosswalk. When across the intersection, remount the bicycle and proceed along the new street.

More information can be obtained on the Web: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpps/offices/bikecontacts.html