



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

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November 5, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Street Smart Education and Enforcement Campaign
for Pedestrian Safety Runs through November 21st**

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . The Prince William County Police will be conducting an enforcement campaign aimed at reducing the number of pedestrian and bicycle crashes with motor vehicles. During the week of **November 14-21, 2009**, the Department will focus its attention on vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle violations that are known to contribute to these types of crashes.

Officers will concentrate on driving behaviors that contribute to these types of crashes such as speeding, running red lights, running stop signs, and not using headlights at night or at any time when visibility is reduced. Conditions that may reduce visibility include rain, fog or any other condition whereby persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet, or whenever windshield wipers are in use. There will also be an emphasis on drivers who fail to yield the right of way to pedestrians.

Officers will be looking for equipment violations such as objects hanging from the rearview mirror and window tinting; these contribute to reduced visibility and the likelihood that a driver won't see people walking or riding bikes. Pedestrians will be stopped if they cross a roadway at points other than an intersection as required by law. Intersections are designed to facilitate the safe crossing of pedestrians by the use of cross walks and traffic lights allowing greater visibility. Crossing along roadways and not at intersections creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians and drivers. Pedestrians should walk facing traffic so they can see oncoming vehicles and avoid them instead of walking in the same direction that traffic is moving. People walking at night are encouraged to wear reflective clothes or light colored clothes, and carry a flashlight

Bicyclists will be stopped for any traffic offenses; the law provides that riders obey all of the traffic laws that apply to vehicles. Bicycle helmets must be worn by anyone under the age of 14; however the Department encourages bicyclists of all ages to wear helmets. Failing to wear a helmet increases the likelihood of serious injuries in crashes and is a violation that will be enforced. Bicyclists riding after sunset are required to have a front white light visible in clear weather from a distance of 500 feet and a rear reflector visible from a distance of 600 feet to the rear. If the bicyclist is riding on a highway with a speed limit of 35 mph or greater, a rear tail light visible for 500 feet is required after sunset.

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This enforcement will be conducted throughout Prince William County; with special emphasis on the corridors of Route 1, Dale Boulevard and Sudley Road. Statistics show that more pedestrian/bicycle crashes occur along these streets.

Street Smart is a pedestrian- and bicycle-safety and public awareness program carried out by law enforcement agencies throughout the Washington metropolitan area. The goal is to educate the public on pedestrian and bicycle safety issues and laws. Street Smart began in 2002.

The goals of the campaign are to change motorist and pedestrian behavior, and reduce pedestrian and bicyclist deaths and injuries, by:

1. Increasing awareness of the consequences of pedestrian and bicycle crashes
2. Recommending actions to reduce risks, such as:
 - Use Crosswalks
 - Obey Signals
 - Look Left-Right-Left
 - Slow Down
 - Stop for Pedestrians
3. Increasing awareness of law enforcement action against unsafe and illegal behavior.

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