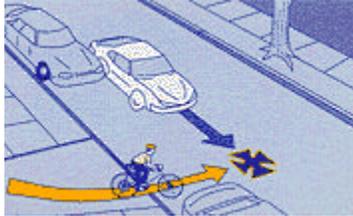


Common Bicycle Crashtypes & How to Avoid Them

Bicyclist Comes From Alley or Driveway

Often called "midblock rideout," this is the most frequent crash type for young riders and occurs soon after the bicyclist enters the roadway from a driveway, alley, or curb without slowing, stopping, or looking for traffic. The bicyclist's sudden entry leaves the motorist too little time to avoid a collision.



Always stop and look.

Look left-right-left for traffic before entering a roadway.

Riding the Wrong Way

Motorists do not expect traffic to be approaching from the wrong direction. This creates a situation for a crash, which is the main reason why it is unlawful to ride facing traffic.

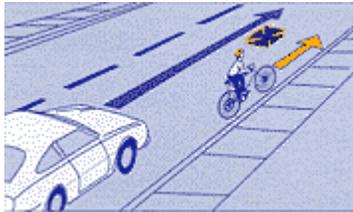


Go with the flow.

Always ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, just like cars do. It's the law.

Motorist Overtaking Bicyclist

This type of crash occurs because the motorist fails to see and react to the bicyclist until it is too late. This type is more frequent at night, on narrow rural roads and often involves driver inattention and/or impaired driving.

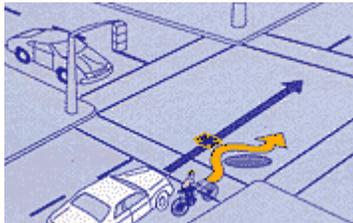


Avoid riding at night.

Avoid dark conditions, narrow roads, and roads with highway speeds over 35 mph. Use reflectors, lights, and special clothing if you must ride at night.

Bicyclist Makes Left Turn or Suddenly Swerves

The bicyclist swerves to the left without checking traffic or without signaling and moves into the path of an overtaking vehicle. The motorist does not have time to avoid a collision.

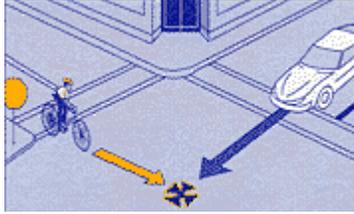


Be predictable.

Always ride in a straight line. When preparing to change your lane position, look behind you and **yeild** to overtaking traffic. When making a turn, use the proper hand signal.

Failure to Obey Stop Signs

Also called "stop sign rideout," this crash occurs when the bicyclist enters an intersection that is controlled by a traffic signal and collides with a motor vehicle approaching from an uncontrolled lane. The bicyclist fails to stop or slow before entering the intersection. This dangerous action does not give the motorist enough time to avoid a collision.



Obey all traffic signals and signs.

Watch for traffic signals. Walk your bicycle across busy intersections.

For additional information, contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

400 7th Street, SW, NTS-21 Washington, DC 20590

phone: (202) 366-0910

website: www.nhtsa.dot.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT HS 808 607 o September 1997 * May be reproduced. (9/97)