



## **Bryan Police Department**

### **Police Department Contact**

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## **College Station Police Department**

### **Police Department Contact**

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## **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Tips**

The Bryan and College Station Police Departments would like to remind its citizens of the importance of safety while walking or riding a bicycle on public roadways. The old saying that pedestrians have the right of way is a myth. Pedestrians have the right of way only in crosswalks. Bicycles must share the road with cars, busses and motorcycles. In addition, bicycles must obey traffic laws just like motor vehicles.

### **Pedestrian safety tips:**

- Pedestrians **MUST** walk on the sidewalk if a sidewalk is provided.
- Pedestrians **SHOULD** walk facing oncoming traffic. This gives you the best chance to see traffic as it approaches you and increases your ability to take evasive action if needed.
- Look both ways before crossing any street.
- Cross at a pedestrian cross walk or an intersection. Any other place the pedestrian must yield right of way to the motor vehicle.
- At a controlled intersection, cross only when you have the pedestrian crossing light, but even then, drivers may have a green light to turn and won't be expecting you to be in the crosswalk.
- Wear bright colors when walking in daytime. When walking at night, wear light-colored clothing and/or a reflective vest to be visible.
- Don't drown out your environment with your iPod. Keep the volume at a level where you can still hear warnings from other walkers, runners or vehicles.
- Talking on your cell phone while you walk can be as dangerous as talking on you cell phone or texting while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger or tripping hazards. Potential criminals could also see you as a distracted and easy target.
- Choose walking routes or paths frequented by other walkers, joggers and bikers.
- Carry your cell phone to report suspicious people.

### **Bicycle safety tips:**

- Bicycles must obey **ALL** traffic signs and signals just like motor vehicles. This means that bicycles must come to a complete stop at all stop signs and red light signals.
- Warn other traffic when stopping or turning by giving the required hand signals.
- Always ride as near to the right side of the road as possible and in the **SAME** direction as motor vehicles.
- Be careful when passing parked vehicles or vehicles traveling in the same direction.
- Not more than two bicycles may be ridden side by side. It is safer to ride single file.
- Do not ride double except on bicycles built for two persons.
- Do not hitch yourself to motor vehicles.
- Be alert to traffic from all directions.
- Before leaving a driveway, alley, or when crossing a street, **STOP**, look both ways and wait for motor vehicles and pedestrians to pass.
- Let pedestrians go first at street crossings and sidewalks.
- Each bicycle, if used at nighttime, shall include a white light on the front which can be seen from a distance of 500 feet and a red reflector on the rear, visible from a distance of 300 feet.
- Always wear a helmet.

Parents need to make sure that their children follow these safety tips to ensure their safety. Everyone needs know the laws that pedestrians and bicyclist have to follow. Pedestrian laws can be found in the Texas Criminal and Traffic Law under Chapter 552 in the Transportation Code. Bicycle laws can be found in the Texas Criminal and Traffic Law under Chapter 551 in the Transportation Code. Finally, whether you are walking or riding a bicycle, you should carry some type of identification. If you are injured and/or unable to communicate with emergency personnel we will be able to verify your identity and can access your contact information more quickly.

The safety of our community does not have borders. It is the goal of every law enforcement agency to protect the citizens that we serve. Be the eyes and ears of your police department. When you see suspicious activity contact the College Station Police Department at 979-764-3600 or the Texas A&M University Police Department at 979-845-2345; contact the Bryan Police Department or the Brazos County Sheriff's Office at 979-361-3888. Together we can make a difference in our community.