

Crime Prevention News

To Enhance the Safety of Faculty, Staff and Students

Volume 6, Issue 1, March/April 2007

VEHICLE SAFETY

Pedestrians, Motor Vehicles, Bicycles, Motorcycles and Mopeds

It doesn't matter if you drive a car, ride a motor scooter or ride a bike; safety is a major concern for all. This issue of the Crime Prevention News is focused on laws and etiquette to help keep everyone safe on the roads. Iowa City is a great place to live, work, or go to college. We have the benefit of being able to interact with people of different cultures, ideals, and beliefs.

Whether they choose to commute with a car, bicycle, motorcycle, motor scooter, or simply by foot, we all have to respect one another on the streets and sidewalks. Understanding what each other's rights and responsibilities are is the key.

Iowa state law is clear in its definitions of laws concerning vehicles and pedestrians. Iowa City also has ordinances to help protect citizens. This issue will have information for each mode of transportation, but, I encourage you to become familiar with all to better understand the rights and responsibilities of others in your community.



Bicycle Safety- page 2,3,4,5

Motorized Scooter and Motorcycle

Safety- pages 6,7,8,9

Pedestrian Safety- page 10



University of Iowa
Police

808 University Capital
Centre
Iowa City, IA. 52242
Ph. (319) 335-5022



We've moved!

**The Department of
Public Safety is now
located at 808 Univer-
sity Capital Centre.**

(200 Capital Street)



Crime Prevention News Volume 6, Issue 1, March / April 2007

Sharing the Road with Bicycles:

All around Iowa, people are discovering the many environments, health and transportation benefits of bicycle riding. With some simple reminders of common rules of the road, bicyclists and motorists can safely share the road.



Under Iowa law, both bicyclists and motorists must comply with the same rules of the road and be afforded the same rights. Sharing the road means sharing these rights and responsibilities.

Safety Tips for Motorists:

- Do not honk your horn at bicyclists. They may be startled and lose control.
- Use extra caution when passing bicyclists. Move entirely into the left lane; on a two-lane road, don't pass a bicycle if oncoming traffic is near.
- Bicyclists might swerve to avoid road hazards. Common road hazards for bicyclists are potholes, debris, drainage grates, railroad tracks and narrow bridges.
- Be careful when opening your vehicle door. Road widths often force bicyclists to ride close to parked vehicles where they may be injured by an opening door.
- When in doubt, yield to bicyclists.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride on the right. Ride in the right lane, except when passing another vehicle, preparing for a left turn, or avoiding hazards.
- Obey traffic signs and signals. Use hand signals to advise motorists you plan to turn, change lanes or stop.
- Make eye contact with motorists. Never assume a motorist sees you or that you have the right-of-way. Expect the unexpected such as: parked vehicles pulling into traffic; vehicles doors opening into your path; and debris on the road.
- At night, use a headlight, taillight and reflectors

[www.uowa.edu/
~pubsfty](http://www.uowa.edu/~pubsfty)

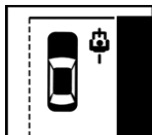
University of
Iowa
Police
808 University
Capital Centre.
Iowa City, IA.
(319) 335-5022

[www.uiowa.edu/
~pubsfty](http://www.uiowa.edu/~pubsfty)

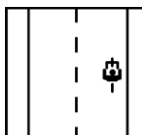
Crime Prevention
News

Crime Prevention News

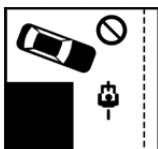
Volume 6, Issue 1, March/ April 2007



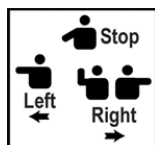
Obey traffic signals. Bicyclists are responsible for knowing and obeying all traffic laws. In order to reinforce the fact that bicycles belong on the road, bicyclists must obey traffic laws and be courteous to other road users.



Ride on the right. When no shoulder is available, move as far to the right as is practical and safe. Bicyclists must ride in the right-hand lane, and when being overtaken by another vehicle, must ride as close to the right as practical while still allowing room to react to broken glass, sewer grates and other road conditions that may affect the operation of the bicycle.



Never ride against traffic. Motorists and other cyclists aren't looking for a bicyclist on the wrong side of the roadway. Riding on the wrong side increases the likelihood and the severity of head-on collisions.



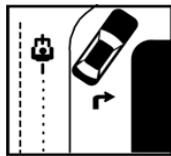
Use hand signals. Hand signals tell motorists when you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy and self protection.



Use lights at night. Every bicycle being used at night must be equipped with a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the rear, both must be visible for at least 300 feet.



Don't ride bicycles on interstate highways. Bicyclists are prohibited, by law, from using interstate highways in Iowa.



Follow lane markings. Like other traffic, bicyclists must follow lane markings. Bicyclists can't turn left from the right lane or go straight in a right-turn-only lane.



Don't "ride double." A bicycle on the highway may not be used to carrying more persons than it is designed and equipped to carry.



Don't pass on the right. Motorists are not looking for a bicyclist to pass on the right. Passing must be done at a safe distance to the left. The return to the right side of the road must not be made until there is a safe, clear distance in front of the passed vehicle.



Bicycle and traffic violations: Bicyclists who violate traffic laws are subject to the same fines as motor vehicle drivers.

9-8-1: OPERATION OF BICYCLES 57: (Iowa City Ordinance)

A. Observation Of Traffic Rules:

1. All persons riding bicycles upon any street or sidewalk within the city shall obey all traffic ordinances and rules as to traffic lights and highway and street stop signs and shall be required to signal any change of direction or course of travel in the same manner as such signals are required under the law governing the use of motor vehicles and shall not turn to the right or left in traffic except at regular intersections of streets, alleys or driveways. (1978 Code §23-66; amd. 1994 Code)
2. All persons riding bicycles upon any street, sidewalk or bike lane within the city shall observe all ordinances and rules as to traffic limits and shall make full and complete stops at official stop signs.
3. In addition, all persons riding bicycles shall be subject to the provisions of ordinances applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle, except as to those provisions which, by their very nature, can have no application. (1978 Code §23-66)

B. Method Of Riding:

1. A bicycle rider shall not ride other than astride a permanent and regular bicycle seat.
2. No rider of a bicycle intended for one person shall carry a second person on any part of the bicycle, except infants may be carried when a suitable and proper seat is provided.
3. No person riding a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which would prevent the rider from keeping both hands on the handlebars. (1978 Code §23-68)

C. Riding On Roadways: Persons riding bicycles on the roadway shall ride single file, and every person riding a bicycle on the roadway shall ride as near to the right hand side of the roadway as practicable, except for turning movements or where bike lanes so designate. (1978 Code §23-65)

D. Careful Riding: No person shall ride or propel a bicycle upon any sidewalk or roadway except in a prudent and careful manner. (1978 Code §23-69)

E. Riding On Sidewalk:

1. No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk in the central downtown business district. The central downtown business district is the area bounded by and including Capitol Street to the west, Burlington Street to the south, Gilbert Street to the east, and Jefferson Street to the north. (Ord. 97-3788, 6-3-1997)
2. Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian. (1978 Code §23-64; amd. Ord. 97-3765, 1-14-1997)

F. Riding On Bikeways: No person shall ride or operate a bicycle within a bicycle lane or path in any direction except that permitted by vehicular traffic traveling on the same side of the roadway, provided bicycles may proceed either way along a lane or path where arrows or signs designate two-way bicycle traffic. (1978 Code §23-70)

Mopeds (motorized bicycle)

Iowa Moped Laws

Bicycle Definition: A bicycle is classified as one of the following:

(1) A device having two wheels and having at least one saddle or seat for the use of a rider, which is propelled by human power.

(2) A device having two or three wheels with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (one horsepower), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden, is less than 20 miles per hour.

New Moped Definition

A "motorized bicycle," or moped, is motor vehicle having a saddle or a seat for the use of a rider, designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, and not capable of operating at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour on level ground unassisted by human power. The maximum speed of 30mph needs to be printed on the certificate of origin from the manufacturer.

The new definition for a moped written above replaces the reference to "an engine having a displacement of no greater than 50c.c." The change in the definition allows electric motors or electric engines to be used as a source for moped propulsion.

Additionally, for a moped to be classified as a motor vehicle, it must be able to travel at a speed of at least 20mph while driving up a 3 percent grade. If a vehicle cannot go 20mph up a 3 percent grade, it is not permitted to be operated on Iowa's streets and roadways.

Moped Licensing

Any person with an adult operator's license, chauffeur license, commercial driver's license or an intermediate license may operate a moped. No motorcycle license is required. If someone does not have an adult operator's license, they are still allowed to drive a moped if they fall into one of the categories below.

* Adults (age 18 and older) who do not have a driver's license must be issued a moped permit. The standard operator's knowledge examination and a vision screening are required. Skills testing may be required at the discretion of the driver's licensing examiner

* Persons age 16 through 17 who do not have at least an intermediate license must be issued a moped permit, under the same conditions as listed in the previous paragraph.

* Persons age 14 through 15 must be issued a moped permit, but must first complete a moped rider education course approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation. The standard operator's knowledge examination and a vision screening are required. Skills testing may be required at the discretion of the DOT examiner.

Moped traffic laws

- * Helmets are not required to operate a moped or motorcycle
- * Passengers are not allowed on any mopeds.
- * A moped must be equipped with a safety flag that extends not less than 5 feet above the ground attached to the rear of the moped. The safety flag must be triangular in shape, with an area of not less than 30 square inches, and be Day-Glo in color.
- * Mopeds may not be operated side by side in the same traffic lane.
- * Mopeds must not be operated between lanes of traffic, adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.
- * Mopeds must have a lighted headlamp at all times when operated on a public street or roadway.
- * Moped operators must not carry a package, bundle or other article that prevents the operator from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

Moped Registration

To register any motor vehicle in Iowa, you must have the Manufacturer's certification label on your vehicle stating that it meets federal motor vehicle safety standards. Without a manufacturer's certification label, vehicles cannot be titled or registered.

Iowa State Code reads: 321.1 (40. a.)

"Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle or seat for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground including a motor scooter but excluding a tractor and a motorized bicycle.

b. "Motorized bicycle" means a motor vehicle having a saddle or a seat for the use of a rider, designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, and not capable of operating at a speed in excess of thirty miles per hour on level ground unassisted by human power.

c. "Bicycle" means either of the following:

(1) A device having two wheels and having at least one saddle or seat for the use of a rider which is propelled by human power.

(2) A device having two or three wheels with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts (one horsepower), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden, is less than twenty miles per hour.

321.174 OPERATORS LICENSED -- OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES.

1. A person, except those expressly exempted, shall not operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless the person has a driver's license issued by the department valid for the vehicle's operation.

(Note: if your moped/scooter will exceed 30 miles per hour you are required to have a motorcycle license)

2. A person operating a commercial motor vehicle shall not have more than one driver's license. A nonresident may operate a commercial motor vehicle in Iowa if the nonresident has been issued a license by another state, a nonresident commercial driver's license, or a driver's license issued by a foreign jurisdiction which the federal highway administration has determined to be issued in conformity with the federal commercial driver testing and licensing standards, if the license, commercial driver's license, or driver's license is valid for the vehicle operated. A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle upon the highways of this state without having been issued a driver's license valid for the vehicle operated commits a simple misdemeanor.

3. A licensee shall have the licensee's driver's license in immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same upon demand of a judicial magistrate, district associate judge, district judge, peace officer, or examiner of the department. However, a person charged with violating this subsection shall not be convicted and the citation shall be dismissed by the court if the person produces to the clerk of the district court, prior to the licensee's court date indicated on the citation, a driver's license issued to that person and valid for the vehicle operated at the time of the person's arrest or at the time the person was charged with a violation of this section. Upon dismissal, the court or clerk of court shall assess the costs of the action against the defendant named on the citation.

321.275 OPERATION OF MOTORCYCLES AND MOTORIZED BICYCLES.

(One through seven \$83.00 fines)

1. General. The motor vehicle laws apply to the operators of motorcycles and motorized bicycles to the extent practically applicable.

2. Riders.

a. Motorized bicycles. A person operating a motorized bicycle on the highways shall not carry any other person on the vehicle.

b. Motorcycles. A person shall not operate or ride a motorcycle on the highways with another person on the motorcycle unless the motorcycle is designed to carry more than one person. (cont.)

The additional passenger may ride upon the permanent and regular seat if designed for two persons, or upon another seat firmly attached to the motorcycle at the rear of the operator. The motorcycle shall be equipped with footrests for the passenger unless the passenger is riding in a sidecar or enclosed cab. The motorcycle operator shall not carry any person nor shall any other person ride in a position that will interfere with the operation or control of the motorcycle or the view of the operator.

3. Sitting position. A person operating a motorcycle or motorized bicycle shall ride only upon the vehicle's permanent and regular attached seat. Every person riding upon the vehicle shall be sitting astride the seat, facing forward with one leg on either side of the vehicle.

4. Use of traffic lanes. Persons shall not operate motorcycles or motorized bicycles more than two abreast in a single lane. Except for persons operating such vehicles two abreast, a motor vehicle shall not be operated in a manner depriving a motorcycle or motorized bicycle operator of the full use of a lane. A motorcycle or motorized bicycle shall not be operated between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles. The operator of a motorcycle or motorized bicycle shall not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken unless the vehicle being overtaken is a motorcycle or motorized bicycle.

5. Headlights on. A person shall not operate a 1977 or later model year motorcycle or any model year motorized bicycle upon the highways without displaying at least one lighted headlamp of the type described in section 321.409. However, this subsection is subject to the exceptions with respect to parked vehicles as provided in this chapter.

6. Packages. The operator of a motorcycle or motorized bicycle shall not carry any package, bundle, or other article which prevents the operator from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

7. Parades. The provisions of this section do not apply to motorcycles or motorized bicycles when used in a parade authorized by proper permit from local authorities.

8. Bicycle safety flags required on motorized bicycles. When operated on a highway, a motorized bicycle shall have a bicycle safety flag which extends not less than five feet above the ground attached to the rear of the motorized bicycle. The bicycle safety flag shall be triangular in shape with an area of not less than thirty square inches, and be Day-Glo in color. (\$69.50 fine)

321.381A OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED VEHICLES.

A low-speed vehicle shall not be operated on a street with a posted speed limit greater than thirty-five miles per hour. This section shall not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a street with a posted speed limit greater than thirty-five miles per hour.

Crime Prevention News

Volume 6, Issue 1, March/ April 2007

Pedestrians

321.325 PEDESTRIANS SUBJECT TO SIGNALS.

Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic-control signals at intersections as heretofore declared in this chapter, but at all other places pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in sections 321.327 to 321.331.

321.327 PEDESTRIANS' RIGHT-OF-WAY.

Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. A person convicted of a violation of this section is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation under section. Additional penalties for violations causing serious injury or death, see §321.482A

321.328 CROSSING AT OTHER THAN CROSSWALK.

1. Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway except that cities may restrict such a crossing by ordinance.

2. Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

3. Where traffic-control signals are in operation at any place not an intersection pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

321.329 DUTY OF DRIVER -- PEDESTRIANS CROSSING OR WORKING ON HIGHWAYS.

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 321.328 every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise due care upon observing any child or any confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

2. Every driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrian workers engaged in maintenance or construction work on a highway whenever the driver is notified of the presence of such workers by a flagman or a warning sign. Additional penalties for violations causing serious injury or death, see §321.482A

321.330 USE OF CROSSWALKS.

Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.