



Bicycle & Pedestrian Laws

Spring and summer are fast approaching and as the weather starts warming up, the amount of bicycle and pedestrian traffic will increase. As such, it's a good idea to remember these important points:

In North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle.

North Carolina traffic laws require bicyclists to:

- Ride on the right in the same direction as other traffic
- Obey all traffic signs and signals
- Use hand signals to communicate intended movements
- Equip their bicycles with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible from a distance of 200 feet when riding at night.
- Wear a bicycle helmet on public roads, public paths and public rights-of-way if the bicyclists is under 16 years old
- Secure child passengers in a child seat or bicycle trailer if under 40 pounds or 40 inches.

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[Read the Laws Related to the Operation of a Bicycle Laws Guidebook – Bicyclists and the Law](#)

[NC Driver's Handbook](#) (See Bicycles in Chapter 6)

Under North Carolina law, pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections and driveways. However, pedestrians must act responsibly, using pedestrian signals where they are available. When crossing the road at any other point than a marked or unmarked crosswalk or when walking along or upon a highway, a pedestrian has a statutory duty to yield the right of way to all vehicles on the roadway. It is the duty of pedestrians to look before starting across a highway, and in the exercise of reasonable care for their own safety, to keep a timely lookout for approaching motor vehicle traffic. On roadways where there is no sidewalk, pedestrians should always walk facing traffic.

[Read Pedestrian-Related Laws](#)
[Laws Guidebook – Pedestrians and the Law](#)

[NC Driver's Handbook](#) (See Pedestrians in Chapter 6)

Laws pertaining to the operation of a bicycle vary from state to state. Below are three issues of bicycling that North Carolina law currently does not clarify.

- Bicycling on Interstate or fully controlled limited access highways, such as beltlines, is prohibited by policy, unless otherwise specified by action of the Board of Transportation. Currently, the only exception to the policy is the US 17 bridge over the Chowan River between Chowan and Bertie Counties.
- There is no law that requires bicyclists to ride single file, nor is there a law that gives cyclists the right to ride two or more abreast. It is important to ride responsibly and courteously, so that cars may pass safely.
- There is no law that prohibits wearing headphones when riding a bicycle; however, it is not recommended. It is important to use all your senses to ensure your safety when riding in traffic.

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/lawspolicies/laws/>



Vacation Checklist

Going On Vacation? - Help Burglars Take One Too!

An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this checklist of tips to help safeguard your home while you're away:

Have good locks on all doors and windows, and USE THEM!

Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and phone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in an emergency.



Never leave your house key hidden outside your home. Leave a spare key with a neighbor or trusted friend.

Stop all deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.

Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived in look.

Plug in timers to turn lights and a radio or television on and off at appropriate times. This helps to disguise the fact that you're away.

Turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.

Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages or through social networking like Facebook and Twitter..

Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you

are home.

Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.

Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.

Tell your local police you plan to be away. Patrol officers may have the opportunity to periodically check your home.

Engrave your valuables as recommended in Operation I.D. This simple step will allow your stolen property to be identified and returned to you if recovered by the police.

Travel Safely!

If you are driving, make sure your vehicle has been properly serviced and is in suitable condition for the journey.

Try to have specific directions and routes to your destination.

If you get lost, call the local police for



directions and assistance.

Keep your vehicle doors and windows locked.

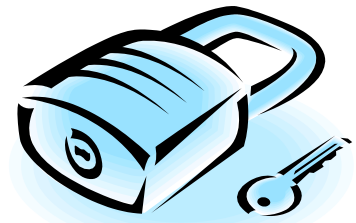
At stop lights and other traffic delays, leave enough space in front of your vehicle so that you have an escape option in case of an emergency.

Let someone know the route you intend to travel and your itinerary. This will help authorities in locating you if there is a need to do so.

Plan your trip carefully and allow for factors such as weather, fatigue, facilities for lodging, food and fuel.

Be sure you have sufficient finances, either cash, travelers checks or credit cards.

Ask the hotel or motel staff about their security measures so you know what to expect.



Use the hotel safe to store your valuables during your stay.

And upon returning home, should you discover that your home has been damaged or broken into, please remember the following:

Don't enter a home that has been burglarized. The perpetrator may still be inside.

Call the police immediately! Please don't wait even if it appears that things are safe or that nothing is taken.

Don't touch anything. As hard as it may be, wait until police arrive before trying to determine if anything is missing or damaged. Trace evidence could be lost or destroyed.

The key is crime prevention but it's best to be prepared should the worst happen. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Happy Traveling!

Pedestrian Crosswalks

What's the law?

- At intersections controlled by ordinary traffic signals, pedestrians must obey the same signals as drivers traveling in the same direction.
- Pedestrians should not start to cross during a red or yellow signal;
- When crossing with a green signal, pedestrians have the right of way over all vehicles, including those turning across the paths of the pedestrians;
- If a traffic signal changes to yellow or red while any pedestrian remains in the street, drivers must allow the pedestrian to complete the crossing safely.
- At intersections without traffic signals, pedestrians have the right of way if they are in marked crosswalks or in unmarked crosswalks formed by imaginary lines extending from the sidewalks across the streets.
- At mid-block crosswalks with no traffic signal, drivers must yield the way to pedestrians in the crosswalk. (N.C. General Statute 20-173)

- At intersections with special “Walk” or “Don’t Walk” signals, pedestrians must obey these signals.
- Pedestrians crossing with special pedestrian signals have the right of way just as they do while crossing with a green light.
- If you are moving through an intersection with a green signal and a pedestrian starts to cross in your path against the red signal, give a warning with your horn.
- The law requires drivers to use the horn whenever a pedestrian may be affected by a turn, stop or start from a parked position. If the pedestrian does not stop, the driver must.

Saving a pedestrian’s life is always worth the driver’s lost right of way. The safe driver yields right of way to a pedestrian whether the pedestrian is entitled to it or not.

Safety is a Shared Responsibility

When you’re driving:

- Yield to people in crosswalks.
- Before making a turn, be sure the

path is clear of people walking.

- Look behind your vehicle for people before backing up.
- Keep an eye out for people walking at night.

When you’re walking:

- Look for cars in all directions—including those turning—before crossing the street.
- Obey all pedestrian traffic signals.
- At night, walk in well-lit areas, carry a flashlight, or wear something reflective to be more visible.
- Watch for cars backing up in parking lots.
- Cross the street where you have the best view of traffic. At bus stops, cross behind the bus or at the nearest crosswalk.
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from the road as you can.

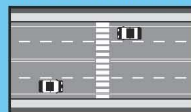
What’s a crosswalk?

MARKED CROSSWALKS



Crosswalks may be marked, either with two parallel white lines or a series of white blocks running across the street (or road).

MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK



These marked crosswalks are located in the middle of a block, not at an intersection.

UNMARKED CROSSWALKS



These crosswalks occur whenever a sidewalk ends at an intersection and continues on the other side. There is an implied crosswalk across the intersection.



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***Integrity, Honor, Respect,
Professionalism***

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The Southern Shores Police Department supports the core of Community Policing, and accepts its definition as both a philosophy and an organizational strategy that will allow the police and the community to work closely together. Together, we will work to establish and maintain mutual trust among all entities to improve the quality of life while enforcing the law.

We are committed to being a leading community-oriented department.

We are committed to being recognized as leaders in our profession by providing quality, customer focused, problem solving services in partnership with the community we serve.

We are committed to ensuring that police and the community share the responsibility for finding workable solutions to problems that detract from community safety and security.

We are committed to have open and honest communications both internally and externally.

We are committed to making sure that with each contact with the public, we treat each person with dignity and a sense of professionalism.

We are committed to excellence in all professional endeavors, maintaining high ethics, and striving to be the best in all we do.

Law Enforcement History

1930

The single deadliest year in law enforcement history, with 282 officers killed.



If you have a rental home, please feel free to print a copy of this newsletter and display it in your home. This is valuable information that renters and guests need to know, particularly first time visitors. Thank you!