

July 21, 2009

Dear Parents and Students:

The Huntington Beach Police Department receives complaints every year regarding traffic violations near our schools. These complaints include vehicles speeding, double parking, blocking/impeding traffic, failing to yield to oncoming traffic, making illegal U-turns, not signaling, and driving past school buses with flashing red lights, just to name a few.

Our officers issued over a thousand citations in 2008 to children for bicycle and pedestrian violations. The most common violations include riding on the wrong side of the road, not wearing a helmet, riding double, riding outside the bike lane, riding motorized scooters, walking against don't walk signs, jaywalking, etc... Although citations are unpleasant for everyone, they are necessary to ensure bicycle and pedestrian safety in our city.

In 2008, the Huntington Beach Police Department responded to sixty-six traffic collisions involving pedestrians resulting in fifty-five injuries and five fatalities. We also responded to 136 collisions involving bicycles resulting in 117 injuries. We had no bicycle fatalities in 2008. Our goal in 2009 is to reduce injuries or fatalities occurring, however that is not possible without your help.

We have attached a short list of some of the most common violations related to bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicle operations. This is simply a reminder of some of the state and local laws we enforce daily for your safety. I encourage you to discuss these laws with your children and remind them of their responsibilities as pedestrians and bicycle riders. I also hope this will serve as a friendly reminder to you as a driver while you drop off and pick up your children at our schools.

Listed are website addresses where the California Vehicle Codes may be researched in detail. <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> or <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/vc/vc.htm>

The Huntington Beach Police Department is both committed to and concerned with your child's safety. Let's all do our part to make Huntington Beach the safest city for our children.

Sincerely, Kenneth W. Small

Chief of Police

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