

SEPTEMBER 2018



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

The official start of fall has begun! That means that most children are back to school, the days are getting shorter and the weather is finally starting to get cooler! While it's a fun time to look forward to, there are some dangers to watch out for.

This RPD Community Newsletter features tips to keep you safe during the fall. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

FALL DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

A combination of fewer hours of daylight with unpredictable weather can result in unsafe driving conditions in the fall. This can result in difficulty seeing and maneuvering on the roads.

Slippery When Wet

A number of weather conditions can contribute to a risky road. Here are a few dangers of fall weather to be aware of when driving:

- Rain: Water can pool on top of dust and oil, making the pavement slippery.
- Leaves: They can litter the roads, making it slippery and obscuring vision of traffic lines, other pavement markings and even potholes.
- Frost: Temperatures can drop dramatically in the night, making ice spots on areas of the road, such as bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas.
- Fog: It can limit your visibility when driving.

There are multiple ways to stay safe on the roads this fall, and they all boil down to watching your speed, especially in areas with rain, frost or leaves, and paying attention to the road and your surroundings.

Beware of Glare

Believe it or not, fall is a bad time for sun glare on the roads. Sun glare is dangerous because it can impact your sight for a few seconds after exposure, obscuring any vision of pedestri-

ans, oncoming traffic, and even the car in front of you.

Watch for Deer

Don't swerve if a deer runs in front of your vehicle!

You could lose control of the car quickly, especially if you are on a curve or narrow road with little to no shoulder. Instead, brake firmly with both



hands on the wheel to come to a controlled stop.

Class Is Back in Session

Fall is back-to-school season, bringing with it back-to-school traffic in the early mornings and late afternoons. This also signals an increase of school buses and cars on the road. Not to mention, pedestrian traffic at crosswalks as kids and parents walk to and from the school and their bus stop.

Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOU AND OTHERS SAFE WHILE WALKING AND BIKING

As the days get shorter, it's important to be visible while out walking, biking, or waiting for the bus. Below are some general tips to keep you and others safe when walking or bicycling.



Pedestrian Safety Tips:

- Recognize and obey all traffic signals and markings.
- Use marked crosswalks when provided. Pedestrians have the right of way at marked crossings, meaning cars must yield to pedestrians.
- When sidewalks are not available, walk to the far left edge of the road facing traffic. Walking in this direction gives you the best view of traffic.
- Never enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubs. Darting into the street accounts for many pedestrian fatalities, especially among children.
- Look in all directions before crossing the street; look left, right, then left again.
- Cross the street at a corner or crosswalk and walk, not run, across intersections.
- At crosswalks with pedestrian signals, state law requires that pedestrians obey the "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs in the same way a driver must obey Red or Green lights.
- Wear bright reflective clothing and use a flash light when walking when the sun goes down.

Bicycle Safety Tips:

- Wear a bicycle helmet at all times when bicycling.
- Follow the rules of the road, which include riding on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it.
- Learn and use appropriate hand signals.
- Avoid distractions such as listening to headphones or answering phones when riding.
- Stop at all intersections, marked and unmarked; stop and look left, right, and left again before entering or crossing the street.
- Wear reflective clothing.
- Equip your bicycle with a front-lighted lamp and rear mirror or lamp for when it gets dark.
- When being passed by a motor vehicle or another bicyclist, remain as far to the right as possible and do not increase speed while being overtaken.
- Yield the right-of-way before entering or crossing any main-traveled or through highway if the roadway is posted with a "yield right-of-way" sign.

A social media post from the Raleigh Police Department. The post is titled "A Picture Perfect Partnership" and shows two police officers in blue uniforms smiling and holding a large photo frame. The frame contains a photo of the same two officers. The post has 13.8K likes and includes the following text: "@Raleighpolice @Raleighgov #RaleighPD #JoinRaleighPD #Raleighgov #WeLoveRaleighPD".

VISIT OUR BOOTH IN THE KERR SCOTT BUILDING DURING THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR OCTOBER 11-21, 2018