



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

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NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Type of Crime/Incident: Traffic Enforcement Operations Plan for San Carlos

Summary:

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office will step up pedestrian safety enforcement operations on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, with focused enforcement on collision causing factors involving motorists and pedestrians. Routine traffic patrols will focus efforts in trouble spots along the El Camino Real corridor.

The Sheriff's Office has reviewed traffic incidents over the past two years where pedestrian involved collisions have occurred along with the violations that led to those crashes. Deputies will be looking for traffic offenses made by drivers and pedestrians alike that can lead to life changing injuries. Special attention will be directed toward drivers speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals, failing to yield to pedestrians in cross walks, and other dangerous violations. Additionally, enforcement will be taken for observed violations when pedestrians cross the street illegally or fail to yield to drivers who have the right of way. Pedestrians should cross the street only in marked crosswalks or at corners.

Pedestrian fatalities are rising in California as more people use non-motorized means of transportation. A national study reveals that pedestrians and drivers do not obey laws and signals consistently, and many often use cell phones, text, and listen to music while walking or driving. Only 60 percent of pedestrians said they expected drivers to stop when they were in crosswalks, even though they have the right-of-way. The following safety tips can save lives and stop this tragedy witnessed far too often in San Mateo County:

Drivers can:

- Look out for pedestrians, especially in hard-to-see conditions such as at night or during bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk where pedestrians are likely to be.
- Stop at the crosswalk stop line to give drivers in other lanes an opportunity to see and yield to the pedestrians, too.

- Be cautious when backing up – pedestrians, especially young children, can move across your path. See www.safercar.gov/parents/backover.htm

Pedestrians can:

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road, cross at crosswalks or intersections, and obey signs and signals.
- Walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible if there is no sidewalk.
- Pay attention to the traffic moving around you. This is not the time to be texting or talking on a cell phone.
- Make eye contact with drivers as they approach. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials (or use a flashlight) at night.
- Look left-right-left before crossing a street.

This detail will be the first of many scheduled for the foreseeable future to address pedestrian crosswalk violations and the ongoing dangers associated with driver's who resist adhering to these vitally important aspects of pedestrians in crosswalks.

Release Date:

January 10, 2019

