

"Under the Trooper's Hat"

By: Trooper Michael Hayen
North Dakota Highway Patrol

Summer brings more outdoor activities for both adults and children. One popular activity is biking. There are bicyclists who travel cross-country through the rural areas of North Dakota, while others, including kids and adults, bike around the neighborhood. It is important for motorists and bicyclists to know the rules of the road so everyone is safe.

According to 2016 North Dakota crash statistics, there were 94 crashes in North Dakota involving bicycles. Of those 94 crashes, 88 of the bicycle operators were injured and three were killed.

Did you know the laws for motor vehicles also apply to bicyclists! For example, if there is a stop sign, a bicyclist must come to a complete stop before entering the intersection. There are also laws specific to bicycles such as when operating a bicycle upon a roadway, the operator must ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. A group of individuals riding bicycles upon a roadway may not ride more than two abreast, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

During nighttime travel on a bicycle, the bicycle must be equipped with a lamp on the front. The lamp must emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front. The rear of the bicycle must have a red reflector. It is also permissible to have a red lamp displayed to the rear in addition to the red reflector.

Bicycles do not provide the same protections as a motor vehicle. One of most important things a bicyclist can do is wear a helmet. Helmets provide the best protection against injury, whether riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, or using skates. Wearing a helmet can prevent head injuries from bike crashes. A helmet will only protect when it fits well. Get your child get in the habit of wearing a helmet by starting when they are young. Be a good role model and wear your helmet when you ride.

The mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol is to make a difference every day by providing high-quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure. NDHP invites you to visit the FAQ section of our website: www.nd.gov/ndhp, like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/northdakotahighwaypatrol or join us on Twitter @NDHighwayPatrol where you can learn more about traffic safety, get tips, and read NDHP news. Download the NDHP mobile app to receive notifications, report a crime tip, thank a trooper, ask a question, or make a suggestion for next month's *Under the Trooper's Hat* feature.