

Bicycle Safety

Summer is here and with it comes the increasing numbers of bicycles on the roadway. The Mosinee Police Department offers the following tips to help riders stay safe:

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to wear an approved bicycle helmet. Helmets can save lives. About 75% of all bicyclists fatally injured suffer head injuries. Many more are permanently impaired.

Almost one-half of bicyclist deaths occur between 4 p.m. and midnight. Make yourself visible by wearing bright, reflective clothing, and using white lights in front and red reflectors or lights on the rear of your bicycle.

Bicyclist should ride with traffic near the right edge of the traffic lane. Riding against traffic was a factor in about ¼ of all car/bike collisions. If traveling in a group, bicyclist should ride single file. Bicyclist may ride 2 abreast if such operation does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

When bicycles are operated on the roadway, or shoulder of the roadway, they are granted all rights and are subject to all duties granted to motor vehicles; except for those laws that are expressly applied to motor vehicles only. Bicyclists are to obey all traffic signs and signals as motorist are expected to.

When making left turns into or across traffic lanes, riders need to listen for, then look over their left shoulder for cars coming from behind. While looking over their shoulder they need to keep their bicycles under control, going straight, near the edge of the traffic lane. When it is safe they should enter the traffic lane and if making a left turn, signal the turn and proceed.

Most serious accidents involve collisions with motorists, but most accidents involve collisions with stationary objects, pedestrians, or other bikes. It is important to watch for these hazards and be prepared to stop or steer around them while staying near the edge of the traffic lane.

This year the Mosinee Police Department, along with the Mosinee Area Fire District, and the Mosinee Area Optimist Club, is holding its 25th Annual Bicycle Rodeo. The rodeo is for all children in grades 4K to 5th who would like to learn about bicycle safety. The children will also get a chance to practice what they learn on our confidence course. The first 75 children will receive a free bicycle helmet. All participants will be eligible to win some great prizes, including a new bicycle.

The bicycle rodeo will be held on Saturday, May 30th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Mosinee Recreation Center. Lunch will be provided. Please join us to learn about bicycle safety. Have a safe and fun summer.

Chief Ken Muelling