

Safety tips shared at first annual bike safety festival

Lafayette Consolidated Government, in partnership with Bike Lafayette and Broussard & David, LLC, hosted the first Bicycle Safety Festival on Saturday at Parc Sans Souci.

The aim of this event, BikeLafayette President Jon Langlinais said, was to help cyclists, pedestrians and motorists become more knowledgeable about bicycle safety and the rules of the road. Free adult and youth certified bicycle helmets were given away to the first 300 participants as well as free bike lights.

BIKE NEWS: [Studies: Lane reductions like Moss Street work](#)

"If this event saves just one life, then it will be worth it," he said.

As more bicycle lanes are installed around the city, bicycle awareness is even more essential. Here are some tips for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists provided by Lafayette Consolidated Government.

1) Check your bike

Make sure your tires are properly inflated and not worn, and your brakes are in good condition.

2) Use your head

Look and listen for traffic, and wear a properly fitted helmet.

3) Ride with traffic

Ride in the same direction as traffic, staying to the right where practical, and usually in the rightmost lane in the direction you are going.

4) When in doubt, take the lane

It may be safer to "take the lane" to remain visible when riding at the same speed as other traffic (e.g. when stopped, in traffic jams, or on very narrow roads), especially at intersections.

5) Obey traffic laws

Follow all traffic laws. Avoid a crash and earn respect on the road by driving your bike lawfully and courteously. Stop signs and red lights mean "stop" for both motorists AND cyclists.

6) Pay attention

Watch out for road hazards like gravel, potholes, and parked cars where doors may open. Anticipate what drivers and pedestrians may do next.

7) Communicate

Use hand signals to show your intention (left, right, stop). Connect personally with drivers by making eye contact.

8) Be predictable

Ride a straight course without weaving in traffic or through parked cars.

9) Light up at night

Your bike must have reflectors, and a front white light, and rear red when riding at night. Wear bright colored clothing for visibility.

10) Keep your cool

Road rage after a close call benefits no one and makes a bad situation worse.

READ MORE:

- [Early morning fire destroys Lafayette home](#)
- [Morning argument ends in fatal shooting](#)