

TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS EVENT

The Plano Police Department, along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), are recognizing the month of May as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month” and “National Bicycle Safety Month.” The Plano Police Department will be hosting their second annual “Look Twice, Save a Life” campaign in conjunction with the Cars and Coffee event at Classic BMW, 6800 Dallas Parkway in Plano on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

In 2012, the Plano Police Department reported 160 injury crashes involving motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians; 4 of which were fatal. “The problem of inattentive blindness, when a person fails to notice some stimulus that is in plain sight, is a real occurrence and can happen to anyone,” says Sergeant A.D. Paul of the Plano Police Department Traffic Unit. “The hope is that through increased public awareness, we can bring attention to this problem, creating less distracted and more observant drivers.”

The Plano Police Department is offering the following tips to help keep our citizens safe on the roadways:

- *Remember, motorcycles and bicycles are both vehicles with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle.*
- *Always allow a motorcyclist or bicyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane.*
- *Perform a visual check for motorcycles and bicycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or exiting a lane of traffic, and at intersections.*
- *Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.*
- *Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals are often not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.*
- *Allow more following distance - three or four seconds - when behind a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.*
- *Never tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.*
- *Never drive while distracted.*