



Traffic Collisions/Incidents Involving Bicycles
(Re-issue DB 16-141)

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify reporting requirements for traffic collisions involving bicycles. A **bicycle rider is an involved party in a traffic collision, if such a collision occurs on a street, roadway or highway.**

Members **shall** consider this when investigating injury and non-injury vehicle collisions, consistent with Department General Order 9.02, *Vehicle Accidents*, and the California Vehicle Code.

When any involved party is injured as the result of a traffic collision (519), members **shall** complete a traffic collision report. A complaint of pain by any involved party is sufficient to establish injury for traffic collision reporting purposes. Medical attention by an ambulance crew or transportation to a medical facility **shall not** be used as a requirement for taking a collision report. The following are examples of traffic collisions requiring a collision report:

- Collisions involving a bicycle and any object, including a parked vehicle, a pedestrian, skater, road hazards, or another bicycle when the collision occurred on a street, roadway or highway.
- Collisions involving anyone opening a vehicle door into an approaching cyclist's immediate path of travel, whenever such path of travel is upon a roadway. This is deemed a collision even if the cyclist swerves and avoids the opened door, but overturns or strikes another vehicle, person or object in the process. This designation also applies to a stopped or parked vehicle when the door is opened by a person other than the driver.

Members shall treat bicycle collisions not occurring on highway and not involving a motor vehicle as 'Aided Cases' and shall be documented using incident report forms as well as a diagram on a CHP 555 form. The diagram shall be attached to the incident report in Crime Data Warehouse. Members assigned to the Airport shall attach diagrams to the incident report in ILEADS. Members who receive complaints from bicyclists about a motorist forcing the bicyclist off the road or committing an assault **shall** document the incident using an incident report form. A collision report is not required. If the incident lacks the elements of an assault, but the reportee is insistent on reporting the incident, members **shall** document the incident using an incident report, not by using a CAD number.

Members should complete investigations and reports as appropriate and **shall not** dissuade bicycle riders from making collision or incident reports. Injury collisions on a highway involving solo bicycles should be treated in the same manner as a solo motor vehicle collision and not merely as an unfortunate occurrence to the bicyclist.


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Chief of Police