

Ben Buchwalter
GJEL Accident Attorneys
925-253-5800
benb@gjel.com
www.gjel.com/blog

National Bike Month Seeks Reduction in Bicycle Accidents

May is National Bike Month, which means that safety advocates and lawmakers are boosting their efforts to reduce bicycle accidents here in California and across the country. The month is jam packed with events designed to increase ridership and improve bicycle safety on city streets and highways. Thursday May 12, for example, is perhaps the most celebrated National Bike Month event: Bike to Work Day. Thousands of Americans will celebrate by getting a little sweaty on their bicycles on their way to work.

But while these events are important and will no doubt result in more cyclists and safer roads, local governments should strive for lasting legislation that will make motorists think more seriously about staying aware of cyclists and pedestrians. California lawmakers have only recently become serious about bicycle legislation. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, for example, has called for a statewide bike helmet law for all ages. And members of LA's City Council have pushed for a law requiring vehicles to leave three feet between their car and a cyclist.

It's perhaps more surprising that many safety advocates are looking to technology to help make bicycles and bike equipment safer. Bicycle super star Lance Armstrong's top chef Biju Thomas, for example, has developed an experimental helmet technology to bring injured bicyclists to the hospital more quickly. The SenseTech HALO technology includes a sensor beneath the helmet's foam layer. Following a bicycle accident, the sensor alerts the nearest hospital or medical center through the cyclist's smart phone, increasing the chances of reaching the emergency room before lasting damage sets in.

These innovative strategies to reducing serious bicycle accident injuries are definitely a piece of the puzzle. But when it comes to making the serious changes needed to make city streets and highways safer, we shouldn't rely on technology or local governments to pass better safety laws. That's why bicycle accident prevention should start at a very young age, by teaching young cyclists to wear the appropriate safety equipment, obey all traffic signs and signals, and share the road.

Enjoy National Bike Month, and remember to stay safe on the roads this May and throughout the year.

More Information:

<http://www.gjel.com/news/cycling-safety.html>

<http://www.gjel.com/blog/5-great-bicycle-safety-technologies-for-national-bike-month.html>

<http://www.gjel.com/blog/national-bike-month-focuses-on-reducing-youth-bicycle-accidents.html>