



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Take the time to stay safe !!

As *Streetskill* moves into its third month of 2008, organisers are appealing to the entire community, especially younger people, to take cycle and pedestrian safety seriously under the banner "Take the time to stay safe".

Roads in the Cayman Islands are busy; with cars, scooters, cyclists and pedestrians, and the community needs to work **together** to ensure that everybody stays safe. That means drivers should look out for scooters, cyclists and pedestrians. There are also measures these people can take to help themselves stay safe.

"When a bicycle is used on the road it becomes a vehicle and so should be treated as such," said Streetskill member, Aileen Samuel. "It needs to be kept in good condition so that mechanics such as brakes operate fully; it needs to have lights that will assist in keeping the rider safe in the dark and extra precautions such as wearing a helmet and light coloured clothes need to be taken by the person riding. Younger riders and pedestrians should ride and/or walk with a responsible adult, whether it be a parent, guardian or sibling."

Other points riders should follow include:

- **Always** have lights on the front and back of your bike so you can be clearly seen in the dark.
- **Always** ride with the traffic on the left.
- Wear a helmet at all times. The most serious injuries from a cycle accident are to the head.
- Keep your bike in good working order.
- Obey **all** traffic signs and signals.
- Keep both hands on the handle bars unless making a turning signal.
- Do not ride with passengers on the front or back of the bike.

- Keep bikes secure.

In addition, drivers must also play their part in ensuring the safety of riders:

- Keep an eye out for cyclists, especially children, as they may not be looking out for you!
- Always use your mirrors before making a manoeuvre to check the path is clear.
- Always use your indicators to make your movements known to others.
- If you pass a cyclist, make sure you have enough room to do so safely.

“Pedestrians sometimes may not be seen by drivers,” said Ms Samuel. “I encourage them to wear visible clothing at all times, walk on the correct side of the road and remember to stop, look, and listen before you cross the street.”

The following tips and advice are being issued to pedestrians:

- **Always walk on the sidewalk if there is one.** If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing the traffic so that you can see all the cars coming towards you.
- **Dress to be seen.** Brightly coloured clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you in the morning or in the daytime. At night you need to wear special reflective material on your shoes, cap, or jacket to reflect the headlights of cars coming towards you.
- **Walk with a responsible adult.**

Tips for crossing the road:

- Cross at marked crosswalks or corners.
- Stop at the edge or the end of the sidewalk.
- Look left, right and then left again before you step into the street.
- If you see a car, wait until it passes, then look right, and left again until there are no cars are coming.
- If a car is parked where you are crossing, make sure there is no driver in the car. Then go to the edge of the car and look left, right and left again until no cars are coming.
- Keep looking for cars while you are crossing
- Do not run.

Drivers should keep in mind that children have special characteristics that make them susceptible to collisions. They have less accurate depth perception, tendencies to "dart" out in to traffic, and difficulty in judging the speed of a vehicle. By talking about these issues to children, you help them to understand that they have the right to walk and cycle safely and also have a responsibility to look out for drivers who may not be looking for them.

The *Streetskill* campaign, launched on May 1 2006 by the National Roads Authority (NRA), the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) and The Cayman Islands Road Safety Advisory Council (CIRSAC)), is aimed at educating motorists and influencing their behaviour.

Organisers are always keen for feedback on the campaign and welcome ideas and thoughts from the community. Residents are encouraged to contact deborah.denis@gov.ky or marion.pandohie@gov.ky – 244-5865.

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Please feel free to copy and use the StreetSkill logo as featured at the top of the release.

Deborah Denis

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