

Bicycling Safety comments.

The most important rule is to use good judgment. Comments and suggestions presented below are good ones, but they don't override your good judgment. What may apply most of the time, may not apply all of the time. Names of contributors have been mostly removed for no particular reason.

I've noticed at least one male rider (I don't know his name) that rides in the middle of the street. He seems to ignore traffic behind him.

I did the BBB with Phyllis & Faith this weekend. There were two idiots that were riding side by side while cars were trying to get around them. With Faith screaming "car back" they continued to ride side by side, oblivious to their surroundings. Although I have not seen such egregious behavior in our group, I think riding single file and a courteous "on your left" when passing would be my suggestions.

FYI, on Sunday's Bike Boat Bike ride, there were 2 young girls who were almost "creamed" at an intersection. We had to cross a 4 lane 55 mph main road out east, and we were instructed to use the light to cross. One of the girls, not realizing that the cars were really traveling at 55 mph decided to cut across the 2 lanes and almost got hit/caused a major accident/ruined a lovely day to say the least. BALI doesn't have the problem of dealing with youth who think they are immortal, but ESPECIALLY with the age of many of the BALI cyclists, we really don't want to fall off our bike, let alone get hit by a car.

Another stressful happening is when 2 or even 3 cyclists ride abreast and even after a person behind calls "car back," either they are deaf or just in their own world and do not realize how dangerous it is on the one hand and how alienating it is to motorists who want to pass but can't because the cyclists are blocking the road. I'm sure these cyclists are not malicious, but rather just unaware of what they do. It's a jungle out there.

In general, try to position yourself where motorists are likely to see you. Make a left turn from the left lane, unless you judge a particular situation to be too dangerous for that.

Never ride on the sidewalk.

Never ride against traffic.

Approaching a turn (left usually) on the wrong side of the street, even if the cyclist rides on the correct side typically. This "method" is not only illegal but ignores the fact that drivers usually don't look or expect traffic coming from that direction, leading to an "accident".

Not moving to the right, single file, when "car back" is called.

Approaching a railroad track at the wrong angle resulting in the track turning the front wheel in a way that causes a crash.

Drafting a cyclist without knowing how skilled the cyclist is, and/or, not telling them they are doing so. This has the real potential of resulting in some sudden surprises. As a corollary, not drafting properly, by looking ahead but, instead, focusing on the rear wheel of the cyclist in front, another potential surprise situation.

Not getting into the proper gear prior to a steep hill resulting in a slowing of the pedal to the point of falling over.

Approaching a sudden break in the roadway (cracks, immediate rise in road level (a sort of "step" increase) on a low angle causing a railroad track loss of control. I've seen cyclists crash as a result.

Suddenly turning the direction of one's bike without warning others, or looking behind to see if this maneuver cuts someone off (turning into a side road, avoiding a hole in the road, etc.).

When initially starting to go, not waiting until the "coast is clear" and starting with others in a way that increases the chances for a slow motion crash if the cyclist ahead or to one's side changes speed and/or direction.

Riding on tires that are too below needed pressure: dangerous on quick descents, etc.

Riding late without proper lights (or any lights) and reflective garments.

Riding without glasses, sun or otherwise as needed. This can result in a problem if dust, bugs, etc. enter the eye(s) suddenly.

Riding with a helmet that's way over the required 3 year lifetime of a typical helmet.

Riding without a mirror (helmet mounted is the best).

Failure to warn other cyclists and pedestrians as you pass them.

Not getting the "big picture" but, instead, being only aware of what's immediately in front of them.

Adjust for sun glare. This may affect what you can see, and it can also affect what the drivers behind you, or turning in front of you, can see.