

LAPD Online Website  
West Traffic Division Captain's Message  
**November 2017**

Hello, I am Captain Gary Walters, the new commanding officer of West Traffic Division (WTD). I am excited to have been given this opportunity to provide the highest quality service to the people in our communities. Our WTD personnel are focused on providing for the safe, smooth, and efficient flow of traffic throughout West Bureau. Our primary goal is to reduce the number of traffic collisions and ultimately put an end to all fatal and severe injury traffic collisions. This goal is also known as "Vision Zero," a City of Los Angeles goal aimed at ending traffic-collision related fatalities within the next several years. This goal can be achieved by utilizing new and innovative strategies. Improved roadway designs to provide increased safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, along with advanced automotive technology, can make a substantial impact toward saving lives. Involvement of the entire Community, along with traffic enforcement and education, can create traffic calming and decrease severe injury and fatal collisions throughout West Bureau. As your new commanding officer, I will ensure that WTD personnel and I work alongside you, our community members, to help attain this goal and make your travels safer.

**Motor vehicle traffic collisions are the *number one cause of death for every age 4 through 33 years of age*.** This statistic is a result of extensive research and is published on a chart titled, "Top 10 Leading Causes of Death in the United States."

The source for the statistics is the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Mortality Data. Causes of death classifications are based on the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) Revised 68 Cause of Death listings. Unintentional injuries were separated out into classifications of death, such as motor vehicle traffic collisions, accidental falls, motor vehicle accidents that are not traffic collision related, and other classifications. In one particular (average) year, motor vehicle collisions killed:

- 139 infants less than one year of age
- 421 toddlers one to three years
- 533 children four to seven years
- 829 children 8-15 years
- A startling number of youth 16-20 years of age were killed, totaling 5,979.
- The number of young adults 20-21 years of age killed was 4,136.
- The number of adults 25 through 33 years of age killed was 6,759.
- For ages 35 to 44, motor vehicle traffic collision fatalities numbered 6,891.
- Motor vehicle collisions accounted for 8,750 deaths for persons aged 45 to 64.

Please check with NCHS, NCSA, or local, state or federal sources for further information.

Due to the unacceptably high incidence of traffic collisions involving serious injuries or death to children that occur throughout the year, child passenger safety and proper use of child restraints are part of the Traffic Education-Enforcement Calendar for the Month of November. The National Highway Transportation Safety Association's (NHTSA) special message for November 24 is: *Occupant Protection "Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time."* This will be

one of the traffic enforcement priorities for WTD officers. Also, *America Buckles Up Children ("ABC") Mobilization* is another enforcement priority for our officers.

The primary focus for traffic enforcement for November 24 through December 12 will be NHTSA's Pre-Holiday Season Primary Message regarding *Impaired Driving: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*. Twitter Chat: *Buzzed Driving*.

One of the National Safety Council (NSC) Safety Events for November is, "*Tie One On For Safety*," sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving ([www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)). "*Drowsy Driving Prevention Week*," sponsored by the National Sleep Foundation, is scheduled for November 5-12. Additional information can be accessed at [www.drowseydriving.org](http://www.drowseydriving.org).

Sections 27360 and 27360.5 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) establish the requirements for child passenger restraints. Years ago, Section 27360 CVC was amended to require each child transported in a vehicle less than six years old or under 60 pounds to be secured in a child safety seat or booster seat. If the child is not yet six years old or does not weigh at least 60 pounds, he or she must be properly secured in a child safety seat or booster seat, whichever restraint system fits the child. Never use a booster seat that has been in an accident, as the seat may have defects that are not visible.

Section 27360.5 CVC requires that a child transported in a vehicle who weighs more than 60 pounds or who is at least six but under 16 years of age, shall use a safety belt or be in an appropriate passenger restraint system which meets applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

In addition, Section 15600 CVC, and CVC Division 6.7 established Kaitlyn's Law, which prohibits leaving a child six years of age or under in a motor vehicle if there are conditions that present a risk. These risks include, but are not limited to; closed windows on a hot day, the engine left running, or if the key is left in the ignition. The primary purpose of this law is to prevent injuries to children from the effects of being left alone in a vehicle.

Child passenger restraints have been developed to help decrease injuries and deaths and increase the chance for the child's survival when involved in a traffic collision. Because use of child restraints is so vital, a unit of officers assigned to Community Traffic Services Unit (CTSU) conducts special educational programs and provides child restraint devices to lower income families. After an appointment is made, this unit will also properly secure your appropriate child safety seat inside your vehicle at no cost to you on certain installment dates.

If you have traffic safety concerns in a particular area, you may contact CTSU at 213-473-0215 or West Traffic Division at 213-473-0222 to voice your concerns. Also, please see CTSU's Webpage under the "About West Traffic" heading, listed on the West Traffic Division Newsletter Webpage.

The areas within Operations-West Bureau and WTD are Hollywood Area, Wilshire Area, Pacific Area, West Los Angeles Area, and Olympic Area. Any of the geographical areas' Webpages can be accessed via LAPD Online. Please check the Crime Prevention Circular for the areas that are of particular interest to you.

**Traffic Tips**

- \* **Look both ways twice before crossing the street.**
- \* **Watch out for pedestrians crossing streets in and outside of crosswalks, especially at night.**
- \* **Always wear your seatbelt.**
- \* **Don't drink and drive.**
- \* **Don't use handheld devices such as cell phones, MP3 players or GPS units while driving.**
- \* **Please slow down. Speed kills.**

Captain Gary Walters  
Commanding Officer  
West Traffic Division