



DEERFIELD BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CAPTAIN RODNEY BRIMLOW



APRIL 2019

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF:

One of the reasons many of us love living in South Florida is our incredible weather. Our cool mornings and sunny afternoons beckon us to be outside more, and to partake in healthier lifestyles, including walking and biking throughout our neighborhoods. These enjoyable activities, however, are costing far too many people their very lives.

Sadly, Florida has the highest fatality rates for both bicyclists and pedestrians in the entire United States! Pedestrian deaths have reached record numbers. Nationally, over the past decade, the number of pedestrian deaths has increased by more than 40%; they now account for 16% of all traffic fatalities. And the rate of bicycle deaths in Florida is 60% higher than the next worst state. The most common reasons for these deaths are preventable, and are applicable to both drivers and pedestrians: alcohol use and being distracted. A third common cause of death is strictly related to cars, and it's speeding. A pedestrian hit by a car traveling 40 mph has a 50% chance of dying.

We all know too well the needless accidents and deaths in our community. Let's all commit to eliminating these preventable deaths and follow 4 simple rules:

1. **Slow Down!** Obey the posted speed limit, or drive slower when necessary to ensure the safety of everyone around you.
2. **Don't be Distracted.** Take a break from the electronics and put your phone down while driving, biking, or walking.
3. **Don't Drink & Drive.** Driving a car or riding a bicycle while intoxicated can only lead to disaster, and possibly death. Don't do it.
4. **Yield the Right of Way.** Cars must stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk and must give at least 3 feet of space to bicycles on the road. It's the law!

Together, let's all make Deerfield Beach a safer place to live, work, and play.

SAFETY TIP:

We all know the saying, "April showers bring May flowers." Check the windshield wipers on your car. They should generally be changed at least once or twice a year, especially in Florida. If they are smearing, skipping, streaking, or cracked, replace them immediately. Also, when driving in the rain, turn on your headlights; **do not use your flashers.**

Text AlertDFB to 888777 to receive real-time alerts.

