

**WYCKOFF POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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Wyckoff Police Chief John W. Ydo wishes to advise the parents of children under the age of 17 that New Jersey law requires that a helmet be worn when operating a bicycle, roller skates, inline skates, and skateboards. Many parents and children incorrectly believe that the law only applies to those under 14 years of age, but the New Jersey legislature changed the law because of excessive injuries to children above 14. **IF YOU ARE UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE, YOU MUST WEAR A BICYCLE HELMET!**

The helmet must be properly fastened and fitted to assure that it will properly protect the head in the event of a fall. Relatively minor bicycle crashes have resulted in brain damage to children that likely would have been insignificant if the child were wearing a helmet.

Too many children are not wearing helmets especially when operating bicycles, and it is the responsibility of parents to assure that their child does NOT take a bicycle from the house without having a helmet. Too many parents seem to ignore the fact that their child can be seriously injured without a helmet. Parents need to be aware of the dangers, and have discussions with your kids about what can happen to them if they did fall without wearing the helmet.

The law requires that parents are responsible, and they face fines of \$25 to \$100 if their child rides a bicycle, rollerblades or skateboards without a helmet.

Adults too are not immune from head injuries when riding a bicycle, and they should set an example for their children and use a helmet if they bike ride.

Don't take chances, obey the laws of the road when operating a bicycle, and above all, stay safe!