

Unsafe Car Passing

November 29, 2019



There seems to be an increase in motorist/cyclist conflicts in recent months. In the last 2 weeks there have been at least two truck “buzz” events and a separate accident (more like vehicular assault) where a truck hit two Chinook riders. Earlier this summer, a Chinook rider was seriously injured when he was hit from behind. The use of rear facing cameras are being looked into by several.

The message here is to be safe out there. Ride responsibly and be seen. If you are doing these and experience a motorist that decides to “teach you a lesson”, do your best to get a plate number and a description of the vehicle. Then report the incident to the local authorities. The county non-emergency phone numbers are:

- **509-628-0333 for Benton** County non-emergency
- **509-545-3510 for Franklin** County non-emergency

Program these numbers into your phone. You can also call 911 as the situation warrants. Reporting these events is critical to indicate a behavior pattern with a particular driver. We usually never call, thinking we will never see them again, but that may not be the case. There have been instances of drivers threatening other riders with no reprimand. When a driver finally does hurt/maim/kill someone, if it’s their first offence and they may get a simple failure to yield citation. If the actual number of close calls were reported and recorded, it will show this driver has assaulted cyclists in the past, and this time they could lose their license and/or incur jail time. **Even if you don’t get the plate number, please call it in.**

<http://www.bces.wa.gov/home/contact-us>

<https://www.co.franklin.wa.us/sheriff/>

<https://www.cascade.org/give-3-feet>