

SAFECC

Pothole Reminder

SAFECC wanted to remind all riders about the responsibility in a group ride for calling out potholes or significant road risks. In 2025, the city of Toronto repaired over 257,000 potholes. I think we all agree that that number will be exceeded in 2026.



ECC has already had at least one pinch flat from a pothole resulting in a fall and want to ensure we minimize any further impact to bikes, and more importantly, our riders.

When riding in a group, especially if you're near the front, to be sure to point and/or call out any significant potholes or road risks.

Emphasis is needed on:

- 1. The front riders must be looking forward and pointing in advance to oncoming pothole(s) and calling out "hole"**
- 2. If it is unsafe to point, call out "hole, right or left". Simply saying "hole" does not help the group avoid them.**
- 3. Cascading the message through the group is just as important so those further back get the notice in advance**

Some additional thoughts for all to consider:

Don't Over Signal

The Solution: Riders should only call out "**tire-killers**" the kind of holes or threats that actually cause pinch flats or crashes rather than every surface imperfection. Of course, if in doubt, call out.

Communication Lag

The Solution: The lead riders need to call things out much earlier than they think. If they wait until they are 2 meters away, the back of the pack has zero reaction time.

Predicting the Line

The Action: Instead of just pointing, often the most effective thing that the front riders can do is **ride a predictable line**.

- If the front pair sees a patch of bad road, they should start a gradual, smooth drift away from it well in advance.
- Sudden swerving to avoid a hole is often more dangerous for a pack than hitting the hole itself.

Suggested Feedback Points

Steady Hands: Discourage "panic-pointing" which leads to erratic steering.

Eyes Up: Remind middle-pack riders to look *through* the riders ahead, not just at the wheel in front of them, to spot road changes early.