



IMCOM *Safety* Gram

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



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Share the Road

Motorcycles have been around since the 19th century. Just watching motorcycle riders tear down the street is exhilarating and riding one is even more of a thrill if it's done safely and respectfully. Motorcycle safety requires riders to be aware of the limitations of their motorcycle and the preventive safety measures they should use. Motorcycle safety also requires drivers of other vehicles to be aware of the presence of motorcycle riders and of their limitations.

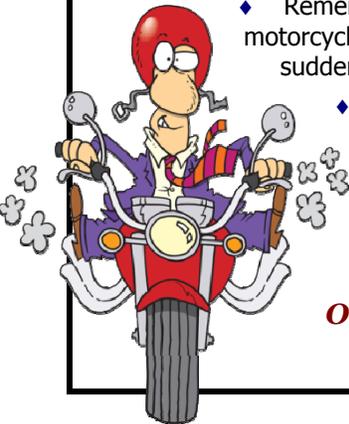


Drivers of motorcycles should always remember to follow these steps to help keep safe:

- ◆ Always wear a helmet with a face shield or protective eyewear — Wearing a helmet is the best way to protect against severe head injuries. A motorcycle rider not wearing a helmet is five times more likely to sustain a critical head injury.
- ◆ Wear appropriate gear — Make sure to wear protective gear and clothing that will minimize the amount of injuries in case of an accident or a skid. Wear reflective clothing when driving at night or during periods of limited visibility.
- ◆ Follow traffic rules — Obey the speed limit; the faster you go the longer it will take you to stop.
- ◆ Ride defensively — Don't assume that a driver can see you. You should always ride with your headlights on; stay out of a driver's blind spot; signal well in advance of any change in direction; and watch for turning vehicles.
- ◆ Keep your riding skills honed through education — Complete a formal riding education program, get licensed and take riding courses from time to time to develop riding techniques and to sharpen your street-riding strategies.
- ◆ Be awake and ride sober — Don't drink and ride, you could cause harm to yourself and others. Additionally, fatigue and drowsiness can impair your ability to react, so make sure that you are well rested when you hit the road.

Drivers of other vehicles should always remember to follow these steps to help keep motorcyclists safe:

- ◆ Allow a motorcyclist the full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in a traffic lane for both an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the full room to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane.
- ◆ Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.
- ◆ Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
- ◆ Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
- ◆ Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Be aware that motorcyclists may need to change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions.
- ◆ Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, say 3 or 4 seconds. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning. And don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- ◆ When a motorcycle is in motion, don't think of it as motorcycle; think of it as a person.



Our message to all drivers is: Help make this the first year in recent years when motorcycle fatalities do not increase. "Share the Road"