

INCREASING MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS



ADVICE TO RIDERS

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Over two-thirds of car-motorcycle crashes are caused by drivers, not by motorcyclists. The driver either does not see the oncoming motorcyclist at all or does not see the motorcyclist in time to avoid a crash. Most motorcycle crashes occur during daylight hours.

Why Didn't That Driver See Me?

Don't assume that you are visible to a driver. As a motorcyclist, it is your responsibility to make your presence known to the driver. Select and wear an appropriate helmet with retro-reflective materials. Wear bright, contrasting protective clothing. If you choose darker clothing, wear a fluorescent vest.

Motorcycle modulating headlight systems greatly enhance the ability of drivers to see motorcyclists. If your motorcycle is not already equipped with modulating headlights, an aftermarket system installation could be a lifesaving investment. Until you are able to acquire modulating headlights, use high beams rather than low beams headlights during the day.

Proper lane position is important to being seen and for protecting your riding space. If you can see the driver in the side-view mirror, the driver can see you. Don't "hide" in the driver's blind spot!

Clearly, communicate your intentions by signaling appropriately. Let the driver know what you intend to do.

What are Some Situations When Crashes are Most Likely to Occur?

Car making a left turn: A driver is attempting a left turn in front of you.

Riding in a driver's blind spot: You are riding in the driver's blind spot and the driver may not see the motorcycle. Additionally, the driver may fail to adequately check blind spots before changing lanes or making turn.

Hazardous road conditions: Potholes, wet leaves, railroad tracks and other road obstructions may dictate that you take an action that a driver may not or does not anticipate.

Obstructed line of sight: Large vehicles, such as sport utility vehicles, delivery vans, and large trucks may block a motorcycle from a driver's view and you may seem to suddenly appear.

How Can I Increase the Driver's Awareness of My Presence?

Make yourself visible: Choose protective gear that will increase your visibility in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash. A motorcycle helmet is your most valuable piece of protective gear and should be quite visible to the driver. It is very important to have and use modulating motorcycle headlights but if not available use high beam headlights during daylight hours.

Ride where you can be seen: Remember that there is no one safe place to ride. Use lane positioning to your advantage to be seen and to provide extra space for emergency braking situations or avoidance maneuvers. Avoid the driver's blind spots. Make your lane moves gradually, and always use appropriate signaling.

Never share a lane with a car: A driver may not expect you to be there and may not be aware of your presence. Remember most drivers are looking for other, bigger vehicles.

Clearly signal your intentions to the driver: Signal before changing lanes and never weave between lanes.



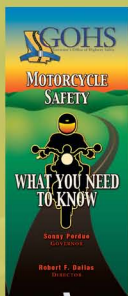
Governor's Office of Highway Safety

For More Information

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