

Motorcyclists are three times more likely to be injured and five times more likely to be killed in a crash.



WEATHER HAZARDS

Bad weather has a greater impact on motorcyclists than other vehicles.

DRIVERS:

- Keep your eyes peeled for motorcyclists, especially when visibility is compromised by weather.
- Give riders plenty of space.
- Be prepared for a motorcyclist to slow and pull off the road when it first starts to rain.

RIDERS:

- Keep raingear with you to wear in wet weather.
- Reduce your speed and increase following distance since wet roads have much less traction than dry roads.
- Remember that other drivers will have a harder time seeing you.

SHARING THE ROAD

A GUIDE
FOR MOTORISTS
AND MOTORCYCLISTS



SHARING THE ROAD



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motorcyclesafety.org

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With hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists out on Minnesota roads, it's vital to their safety that motorcyclists and drivers work together to share the road.

VISIBILITY AND INTERSECTIONS

Failure to yield the right of way is the number one contributing factor in fatal motorcycle crashes involving another vehicle. The majority of motorcycle crashes involving another vehicle happen at intersections.

DRIVERS:

- Check your mirrors and blind spots for motorcyclists before changing lanes and at intersections since motorcycles are smaller, harder to see and distance and speed is difficult to judge.
- Look twice for motorcyclists before pulling out at an intersection or changing lanes.
- Wait to be sure a motorcycle is turning before pulling out into the intersection.

RIDERS:

- Make yourself as conspicuous as possible. Wear brightly-colored protective gear, including a DOT-approved helmet.
- Use turn signals (and hand signals) for every turn or lane change.
- Watch for distracted drivers, and don't ever assume a driver knows you're there.
- Slow down and cover your brakes and clutch when approaching intersections.

FOLLOWING DISTANCE

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) recommends a two-second following distance for motorcycles since they are more maneuverable and stop better than cars. A three-second following is recommended for cars and trucks. Allowing these minimum following distances from the vehicle in front of you gives drivers and motorcyclists time and space to react to any surprises. Increase the following distance at night or when driving at higher speeds.

When these following distances aren't possible:

- Riders and drivers stay alert!
- Motorcyclists should always have an escape route in mind, cover their brakes and horn and be ready to use them.

PASSING

DRIVERS:

- Check blind spots and mirrors.
- Change lanes completely to avoid crowding the rider.
- Don't move back into your lane too soon. Give the motorcycle as much space as a car or truck.
- When a motorcycle is passing you, maintain lane position and speed.

RIDERS:

- Signal well in advance, check blind spots and your mirrors, and complete the pass safely and quickly. Be careful not to remain in a driver's blind spot for more than a few moments.
- Use your turn signal and return to your lane well ahead of the other vehicle.

LANE USE

Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane as other vehicles. While it is legal for motorcyclists to ride side-by-side, it's best to ride in a staggered formation to give riders escape routes and space to react to road hazards.

ROAD HAZARDS

Minor problems for cars, like potholes, railroad crossings and sand, can be major hazards for motorcyclists.

DRIVERS:

- Be prepared for motorcyclists to make sudden changes in position and speed when a rider needs to avoid a road hazard or reduce the risk of losing traction.

RIDERS:

- Be on constant alert for road hazards.
- Continually scan far ahead and side to side to give yourself extra time and space to react.
- Change lane position or lanes to avoid a hazard.
- Flash your brake light before slowing or stopping.

