MOTORCYCLISTS

Protect yourself and your motorcycle:
- Get properly trained and licensed.
- Wear the appropriate safety gear.
- Know your limit and the laws for drugs and alcohol.

Get properly trained and licensed

Four out of every 10 crashes involve riders that do not have a valid driver's license or a motorcycle endorsement.
- Take a motorcycle safety course.
- Get your “CY” motorcycle endorsement on your license before you ride. It is the law.
- Choose a bike that is suited to your size, experience and skill level.

Wear the appropriate safety gear

Most crashes happen on short trips of less than five miles or at speeds slower than 30 mph. The right gear can save your life.

Make sure to choose:
- An approved helmet.
- Appropriate face or eye protection.
- Protective clothing, sturdy footwear and gloves. Bright colors and reflective materials will increase your visibility.

Know your limit and the laws for drugs and alcohol

About one out of every three motorcycle fatalities involve drugs or alcohol.
- Riding sober is the best way to keep safe on the road. Alcohol and drugs (including prescription and over-the-counter medications) can adversely affect your riding.
- Having any alcohol in one’s body increases the chance of crashing by five times.
Motorists

You’ll enjoy the drive even more when you:

- Watch for motorcyclists.
- Don’t follow a motorcyclist too closely.
- Share the road.

Watch for motorcyclists

Eighty percent of motorcycle crashes result in injury or death for the motorcyclist.

- Intersections are the No. 1 spot for crashes with motorcyclists. Always look twice before proceeding.
- Left turns are a “danger zone.” Look for approaching motorcyclists when turning.
- Look twice when changing lanes. Double check your blind spots and signal before changing lanes.
- Be extra careful at all times. A motorcycle is less visible due to its smaller size and single headlight.

Don’t follow a motorcyclist too closely

Keep at least 3 to 4 seconds of time between you and a motorcyclist.

- A motorcycle stops quicker than a car or truck. Tailgating a motorcyclist is dangerous and illegal.
- Traffic, weather and road conditions may force motorcyclists to react quickly.
- Road debris that doesn’t affect you can topple a motorcycle. Gravel, oil, trash and other hazards can pose a special danger to motorcyclists.

Share the road

Treat motorcyclists with the same respect and courtesy you afford to other motorists.

- Motorcyclists have the same rights as any other driver on the road and are legally entitled to a full lane.
- When a motorcycle is in motion, don’t think of it as a motorcycle, think of it as a person.

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