



Motorcyclists are hard to see.

LOOK TWICE. SAVE A LIFE.

DRIVING TIPS TO HELP YOU SAFELY SHARE THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLISTS

Motorcyclists are hard to see, so knowing their patterns and behaviors can help keep everyone safe. Below is a list of common issues that you should know when it comes to sharing the road with motorcyclists, and tips on how to handle them.



Use Caution When Turning Left

Issue: Most crashes occur when a vehicle driver turning left fails to notice an oncoming motorcyclist. Intersections are one of the biggest dangers for motorcyclists, as their smaller size causes them to be overlooked by other drivers.

Tip: Be cautious at intersections and make sure to look twice before turning, especially left.



Remember Streets Are More Dangerous Than Highways

Issue: 84% of motorcycle-vehicle crashes happen on streets, not highways. City streets are complex environments, busy with traffic, obstacles and distractions that can divert a driver's attention and increase the chances for a crash.

Tip: Be aware that most motorcyclist crashes happen on streets.



Keep Your Distance

Issue: Many motorcyclists slow down by downshifting, which won't activate the brake light. This can be dangerous if you don't allow yourself extra space when behind a motorcyclist, particularly on busy city streets.

Tip: Keep your distance when following a motorcyclist.



Always Remain Alert

Issue: Many drivers count on hearing motorcyclists to be aware of their presence, but often road noise drowns out the sound of a motorcyclist no matter which direction they are coming from. Evening rush hour is the time a majority of motorcycle-vehicle crashes occur because a greater volume of vehicles on the road makes it harder to detect motorcyclists.

Tip: Don't just rely on your ears. Practice remaining alert, especially at peak riding hours (from 4-7 p.m.).



Avoid Distractions

Issue: Distracted driving takes your attention away from the road. Common distractions are phones, GPS devices, eating, drinking or reaching for an object. Michigan's Hands-Free Law states a driver cannot hold or support a phone or other device with any part of their hands, arms or shoulders while driving.

Tip: Wait until you reach your destination to use your phone, eat or drink.



Double-Check Blind Spots

Issue: Motorcyclists can easily get lost in one of your vehicle's blind spots, especially when you attempt to merge, change lanes or turn.

Tip: Know where your blind spots are and double-check them often — paying special attention to the A-pillar blind spot. The A-pillar is the forward-most pillar on a vehicle that supports its roof at each corner of the windshield.



Remember Motorcyclists Are Closer Than They Appear

Issue: Motorcycles' smaller size and single headlights make their speed and distance harder for drivers to judge, especially at intersections.

Tip: Always keep a watchful eye and look twice at intersections before you turn or pull out.



Know Motorcyclist Hand Signals

Issue: Failing to notice or recognize motorcyclist hand signals can lead to crashes. Motorcyclists use hand signals to let vehicles know their intentions on the road.

Tip: Know their signals — a right turn is signaled by a left arm raised or a right arm straight out to the side, a left turn by the left arm straight out to the side and a stop by the left arm downward.

