



157th ARW Safety Savvy



Motorcycle Awareness

It's that time of year when everyone should be noticing more and more motorcycles out on the road. 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.

Tips for Drivers:

Why Didn't I See That Motorcycle?

1. There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle; they ignore it (usually unintentionally). Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at an intersection.
2. Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into (or out of) a driveway, predict a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
3. Because of its small size, a motorcycle can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots (door/roof pillars) or masked by objects or backgrounds outside a car (bushes, fences, bridges, etc). Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.
4. Because of its small size a motorcycle may seem to be moving faster than it really is. Don't assume all motorcyclists are speed demons.
5. 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.
6. Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-canceling, thus some riders, (especially beginners) sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change. Make sure a motorcycle's signal is for real.



7. Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of road debris, passing vehicles, and wind. For example, you may ignore a piece of road debris as a driver; however, that same piece of road debris may be deadly for a motorcyclist. Also, understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to be reckless or show off or to allow you to share the lane with them.

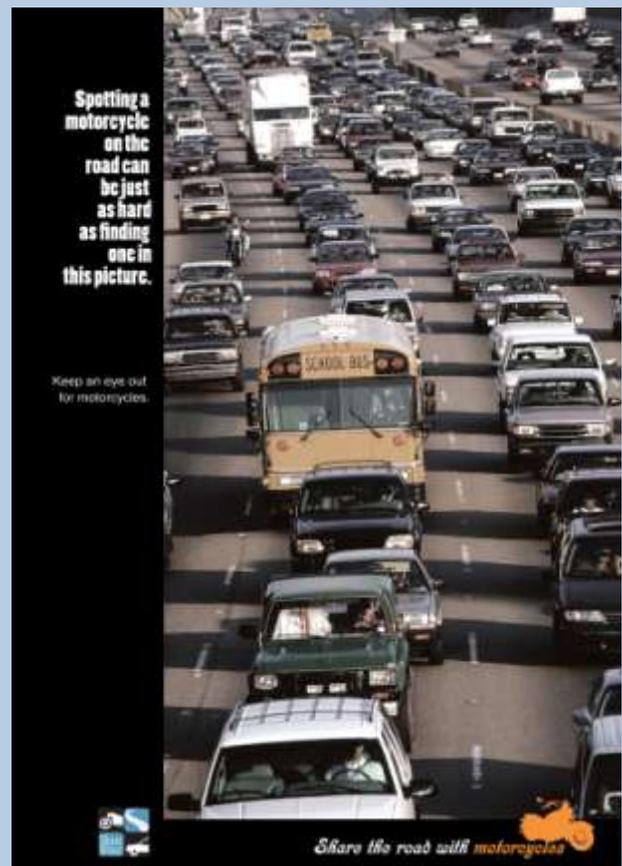
8. Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, especially at slower speeds and with good road conditions, but don't expect a motorcyclist to always be able to dodge out of the way.

9. Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes stopping quickly difficult. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it can't always stop "on a dime."

10. When a motorcycle is in motion, don't think of it as motorcycle; think of it as a person.

Good Public Service Announcement...

http://home.ama-cycle.org/newsroom/Psa/Watch_For_Bikes.mp3



How Can I Become More Aware of Motorcyclists?

Respect the motorcyclist: Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the privileges of any vehicle on the roadway. Give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel.

Don't be Distracted: Hang up and drive, put down the food, the pet, the personal grooming gear, the CD (or iPod), and the reading material and save it for later.

Look out: Look for the motorcyclist at intersections, when a motorcyclist may be making a left turn, and on the highway, when a motorcyclist may be changing lanes. Clearly signal your intentions.

Anticipate a motorcyclist's maneuver: Obstructions that you do not notice may be deadly for a motorcyclist. Predict evasive actions.

Allow plenty of space: Don't follow a motorcycle too closely. Allow enough room for the motorcyclist to take evasive actions.

Use your Turn Signals: Signal your intentions. It's also the law!!

Keep it in the Car: Don't throw trash and cigarettes out the window, and securely lash down cargo that can fall out on the road and be a deadly hazard.



Look twice, save a life.

For all the Riders out there: 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 most visible to the driver.

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.

Just a quick article FYI....

Iowa - Police say Robert Skogerboe of Omaha was thrown from his motorcycle after he hit the refrigerator, which had landed in the middle of U.S. Highway 75 on Sunday.

Skogerboe was taken to a Sioux City hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

Authorities say no charges have been filed, but a citation is likely against the driver of the truck.

Editor's Note: We don't normally run stories about accidents. This one, however, is about falling debris; something that most riders aren't aware is a hazard. When following any vehicle, especially ones with tied down loads, be aware that they may fall off. Use caution and follow at a safe distance. Florida is the state with the most fatalities caused by road debris.



This document was derived from multiple sources. Sources are available upon request in the 157 ARW/SE Office.

From Your Risk Management Staff