

“I DIDN'T SEE THE MOTORCYCLIST COMING”

The failure of motorists to detect motorcycles is the most common cause of accidents for motorcyclists. They occur because the driver simply “Didn't see the motorcyclist coming”.

Why doesn't the average driver see a motorcyclist?

- Looking for other cars not motorcycles
- Talking on a cell phone
- Texting (Reading or Sending)
- Adjusting the radio
- Speaking to or dealing with passengers
- Putting on makeup
- Painting your fingernails
- Shaving
- Eating
- BEING IN A HURRY!

Motorcyclists riding patterns differ from that of a car and can be harder to judge or predict. Traffic, weather, and road conditions often require motorcyclists to respond differently than automobile drivers.

A staggered riding formation allows individual riders the space needed to maneuver within the group in order to compensate for continually changing road conditions.

HOW CAN I DRIVE AWARE?

Look out for motorcyclists. Be aware that although you may not see any cars, there may be an unnoticed motorcycle. Be careful at an intersection, particularly when making left turns.

Anticipate a motorcyclist maneuvers. Motorcyclists may change lane positions within the lane in order to respond to road conditions, weather, or other factors. Expect and allow space for such actions.

Signal your intentions, even if you don't see vehicles in front or behind you. Again, be particularly careful when making left turns across lanes of oncoming traffic. Look carefully in all directions for oncoming motorcyclists.

Respect a motorcycle as a full sized vehicle with equal rights to the road. Give motorcycles a full lane.

Allow plenty of space when following a motorcycle. The slightest contact can mean a spill, injury or even death for a rider.



DRIVE AWARE



WE'RE OUT THERE !

LOOK FOR MOTORCYCLISTS
WE'RE EVERYWHERE!
A.B.A.T.E.

OF
ILLINOIS
SAFETY & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

www.ABATE-IL.org

Why be aware of motorcyclists?

Half of all motorcycle accidents involve a driver like you. Almost two-thirds of these accidents are caused, not by the motorcyclist, but by the driver of the other vehicle. The driver either doesn't see the oncoming motorcycle at all or doesn't see him/her in time to avoid the accident.

Drivers also contribute to another 10% of motorcycle accidents where the motorcycle is the only vehicle involved. Drivers who unintentionally pull out in front of a motorcycle often force the rider to over brake, slide and fall.

Why don't drivers see motorcyclists?

There are several reasons why drivers may not see the motorcyclist coming.

Motorists tend to look for other cars not motorcyclists. The profile of a motorcycle is much smaller than the larger profile of a car or truck. This makes an approaching motorcyclist harder to see. Estimating their distance and oncoming speed can also be more difficult.

Motorcycle riding requires frequent lane movements to adjust for changing road conditions.

What are the situations when accidents are most likely to occur?

Accidents are most likely to occur in these high-risk situations:

LEFT TURNS

The most common accident between cars and motorcycles is at an intersection when the automobile driver is making a left turn in front of a motorcycle. Over 40% of all motorcycle accidents occur at intersections.

BLIND SPOTS

Motorcyclists riding alongside a lane of cars are often out of the view of the driver. An unsuspecting driver may collide with a motorcycle as the driver tries to change lanes.

HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITIONS

Motorcyclists have to be much more concerned about road surface conditions than automobile drivers do. Although road obstructions such as potholes, fallen tree limbs, or railroad tracks may be a minor problem for an automobile a motorcyclist may have to slow down or change lanes to avoid these obstacles.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

When the road surface is wet or icy, motorcyclists' braking and handling abilities are impaired.

STRONG WINDS

A strong gust of wind can move a motorcycle across an entire lane if the rider is not prepared for it. Wind gusts from larger trucks can also be a real hazard.

LARGE VEHICLES

A large vehicle, such as a van or truck, can block a motorcyclist from a driver's view. The motorcyclist may seem to suddenly appear from nowhere.

If you **DRIVE AWARE** of motorcyclists in these situations, and take the care and responsibility that comes with the privilege of operating a motor vehicle you can help make the streets safer for **EVERYONE!**