

SAFETY TIPS ALLOWING MOTORISTS AND MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS TO SAFELY SHARE MICHIGAN'S ROADS

CAR AND TRUCK DRIVERS ARE URGED TO:

- Be aware of cyclists. After Michigan's long winter, drivers are not accustomed to seeing motorcycle, mopeds and bicycles on the roads.
- Share the road. Motorcyclists are entitled to a full lane of traffic, just like another car or truck. Moped and bicycle riders must stay to the right and share a lane.
- A safe distance from the motorcycle. Because of road hazards or other traffic conditions, motorcyclists may have to swerve or stop suddenly.
- Check your blind spots before turning, changing lanes, backing up or parking. Many traffic crashes occur because a driver did not check or see the motorcyclist.
- Be extra alert for motorcycles, mopeds and bicycles at or near intersections. They are easily overlooked if traffic is heavy or the driver is in a hurry. Pay particular attention when making left turns across traffic to insure that a motorcyclist may not be coming straight through.
- Use extreme care in passing. Because of the smaller size of a motorcycle, a car or truck passing too fast or too close could blow the motorcyclist out of control. In addition, a vehicle passing too close to a motorcycle, could throw stones or other road debris at the motorcyclist.

MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS ARE URGED TO:

- Be properly trained and to have a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license.
- Keep in mind that weather conditions, road surfaces and fatigue pose greater problems for motorcyclists than other motorists.
- Always wear a helmet. A good quality helmet which fits properly affords the most protection. Gloves and boots provide added protection.
- Wear brightly colored clothing so the motorcyclist is seen by other drivers. Operation of the motorcycle headlight (standard on most late model motorcycles) also increases the visibility of the motorcycle.

- Assume that the driver of the other vehicle does not see the motorcyclist. Always be prepared to take evasive action. Drive defensively and within the rules of the road.
- Ride near the center of the lane just outside of the grease strip. Stay out of other drivers blind spots.
- When riding in a group, do not ride two abreast in a single lane. Ride in a staggered formation, allowing a safe distance between motorcycles to maneuver in an emergency.
- Avoid excessive speed when operating the motorcycle. Slow down at night and during inclement weather, when visibility is usually reduced.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages when operating the cycle. Be aware that over the counter drugs as well as prescription drugs may have effects on the motorcyclist such as making them drowsy.
- Keep your motorcycle in good operating condition, using the safety and maintenance checks listed in the owner's manual as a guide. When it comes to performing those maintenance items, if the motorcyclist does not have a good understanding of mechanical maintenance techniques or lacks the appropriate tools, they should seek the help of a trained service professional.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For information on a rider safety course near you, contact the Motorcycle Safety Foundation by calling 1-800-446-9227 or visit the Michigan Department of State web site for training information.

May is Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month in Michigan. Let's have a safe and enjoyable riding season by sharing the road.