

## Share the Road

Every driving situation is different and must be dealt with accordingly. Applying these suggestions is the responsibility of the motorist.

Drive aware when you are on the road. Expect to see motorcycles, not just another car. Do not trust your mirrors because motorcycles can be hidden in your blind spot. Instead, turn and look over your shoulder, then LOOK TWICE!

Keep in mind the motorcyclist's point of view. Remember, motorcyclists move around on the road. Anticipate their movements, particularly in the places where crashes are most likely to occur.

Give motorcycles the same space and respect that you would give other vehicles. Do not forget that they use the whole lane of traffic, even though it is not all at one time. Always give them a full lane and remember not to follow too closely. Allow a two to three second safety cushion between you and the motorcycle and increase it to four to five seconds when road or weather conditions are bad.

Be courteous. Let the motorcyclist know well in advance when you are planning to stop, turn, or change lanes. Do not speed up when a motorcycle is passing you. Never cut in too closely after passing a motorcycle. Remember that the person underneath that helmet could be someone you know.

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**"There is no need to drink and ride a motorcycle — the ride alone is intoxicating!"**

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

## Familiarity



### Mental Discipline

**"Research shows drivers who also ride motorcycles and those with family members or close friends who ride are more likely to observe motorcyclists and less likely to collide with them."**

(Brooks, 1990)

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**"Motorcyclists are Dying To Be Seen."**

More motorcycles are on the road today than ever before. The main cause of accidents involving motorcyclists is the failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic. To avoid crashes and reduce injuries and fatalities, motorists should pay special attention to people riding motorcycles. This special attention starts with an awareness of motorcycles, an understanding of what to expect from motorcycles, and knowledge of where most crashes are likely to occur.

The diversity of the motorcycling community is reflective of the general population. The rider you see on the road may be a teacher, welder, secretary, doctor, etc. Motorcyclists are often your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

When motorcycle related crashes occur, 75 percent of them involve a collision with another vehicle, usually a passenger car.

More than 50% of all crashes involving a motorcycle and a passenger car occurred because the motorist did not see the motorcycle (or did not see it soon enough to respond.)

To decrease the number of motorcycle crashes, motorists should **DRIVE AWARE** and **LOOK TWICE**. Try to actually LOOK for motorcycles on the roadway. TAKE notice of them on a regular basis. This will help you see them when it matters most - at intersections and during lane changes.

**MOTORCYCLES ARE  
EVERYWHERE**

**LOOK TWICE and SAVE A  
LIFE!**

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## “Double Check!”

Below are some very important points to help you have a better understanding of the challenges of riding a motorcycle.

### Motorists Do Not Look For Motorcycles.

Motorists are familiar with looking for other cars, not motorcycles. Motorcycles are smaller than cars and trucks; therefore, they are harder to see. It is also difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed and distance accurately.



### Motorcycles Maneuver Differently.

A motorcycle occupies 4 feet of a 12 foot lane in traffic. The motorcyclist moves within the lane, adjusting to changing driving conditions - the road, the weather or other vehicles. While motorcyclists typically ride in the left portion of a lane, they may move suddenly to avoid an obstacle. Remember, motorcycles use as much of the lane as cars do - just not all at one time.

## “Did you see a motorcycle today?”

### Motorcycles Have a Higher Risk.

Motorcycles do not have protective exteriors like cars and, therefore, are more vulnerable to a variety of elements. Even with the proper clothing and helmets, motorcyclists are at a higher risk of injury, should they be involved in a crash. Motorcyclists are more affected by bad weather such as rain, high winds, and ice.

By driving aware, looking twice and being more familiar with motorcycles, you will be more likely to notice a motorcycle at a critical point in time!

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Now that you have a better understanding of motorcyclists, take a look at the most likely cause of an accident involving a motorcyclist and a motorist.

### 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 forty percent of all motorcycle accidents occur at intersections.

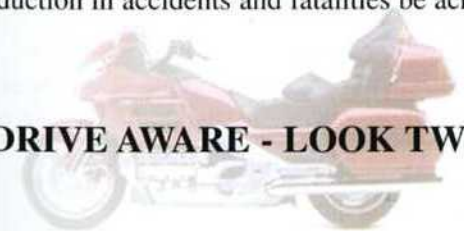
### Hazardous Road Conditions

Motorcyclists have to be much more concerned about road obstructions. Potholes, fallen tree limbs, or railroad tracks may be minor problems for many drivers. A motorcyclist may have to slow down or change lanes to avoid these obstacles.

### Auto Blind Spot

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

Likewise, it is every motorcyclist's responsibility to participate in motorcycle safety courses, expert rider courses, and skill enhancement courses on a regular basis. Only by combining the skill of the motorcyclist with the awareness of the motorist, will the greatest reduction in accidents and fatalities be achieved!



**DRIVE AWARE - LOOK TWICE**

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