

Safe Driving Around Motorcyclists



“Look twice, save a life” is more than just a catchy phrase—it’s practical advice. Safety should always be the top priority while driving, but extra caution is needed when sharing the road with motorcycles.

Remember, motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the roadway.

Share the Road

Drivers should be aware that motorcyclists may weave through traffic or briefly share lanes. If this happens, slow down and allow enough space for the motorcyclist to maneuver.

Drivers in the far-left lane should move to the left of their lane to give motorcyclists plenty of room to pass.

In California, lane splitting is **legal**, and motorists who deliberately block or hinder a motorcyclist in a way that could cause harm are breaking the law.

Check Blind Spots

Motorcycles can be difficult to spot and may blend into their surroundings. Always check your vehicle’s blind spots when merging or changing lanes to ensure there are no motorcycles nearby.

Give Motorcyclists Space to React

When driving near a motorcycle, make sure to give them ample distance. Motorcyclists tend to react more quickly, so providing space helps prevent rear-end collisions and allows them to stay focused without worrying about your vehicle.

Exercise Caution When Passing Motorcycles

When passing a motorcyclist, be extra cautious. The speed of your vehicle can create wind turbulence that might destabilize the rider. Use your turn signal to indicate your intention to pass and return to your lane only when they are far enough behind.

Remember, Motorcycles React Differently

Did you know motorcycles can stop faster than cars in dry conditions? Allow more following distance to ensure you have enough time to react if the motorcycle suddenly stops, as rear-ending a motorcycle can be deadly for the rider.

Be Mindful of Bad Weather and Road Conditions

In poor weather or hazardous road conditions, take extra care and provide motorcyclists enough space to recover if they slip. Also, these conditions can make it more challenging to spot other vehicles around you.

Look in All Directions When Turning Left

Before making a left turn, be sure to check for oncoming traffic, especially motorcycles. Left-turn accidents involving motorcycles are often severe, as the motorcycle may collide with the side of the car.

Help Keep Riders Safe at Night

At night, due to reduced visibility and the small size of motorcycles, extra caution is needed. Turn off your high beams when approaching other vehicles, increase your following distance, and provide more space for motorcyclists.