

**8 THINGS**  
**YOU MUST**  
**KNOW**  
**— BEFORE THE —**  
**NEXT TIME YOU**  
**— GET ON YOUR —**  
**MOTORCYCLE**



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— INJURY ATTORNEYS —

# MAKE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY YOUR TOP PRIORITY!

Operating a motorcycle is considerably different from driving an automobile, even though the rules of the road are practically the same.

When you combine ongoing riding education with respect for traffic laws and a commitment to safety, you can substantially reduce the chances that you'll be injured – or worse – while riding.

It's imperative to know these basic motorcycle safety tips – so that your next ride is a safe one.



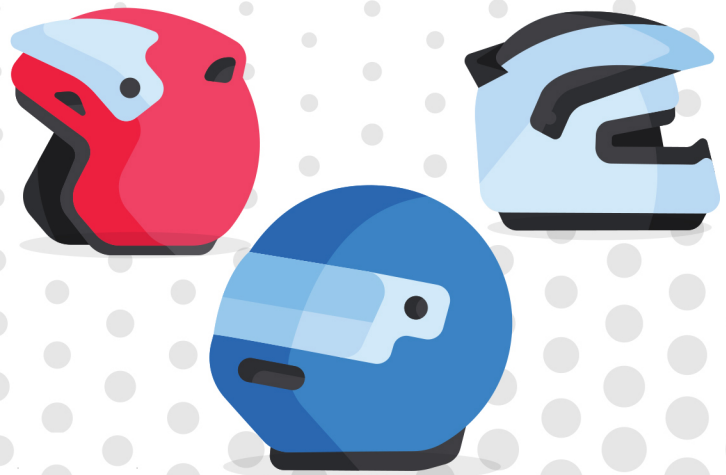
## SAFETY TIP #1

### WEAR A CERTIFIED MOTORCYCLE HELMET

Always wear a helmet – certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation – with a face shield or protective eye wear.

The laws in nineteen states, compel all motorcyclists and their passengers to use helmets.

Wearing a helmet is the best way to protect against severe head injuries. A motorcyclist not wearing a helmet is five times more likely to sustain a severe head injury than a non-helmeted rider.



## SAFETY TIP #2

### WEAR APPROPRIATE SAFETY GEAR

It's important to wear protective gear and clothing that reduces and minimizes injuries in the event of a collision or a skid.

- 1 A thick leather motorcycle jacket can help protect you from serious injuries. A jacket with reinforced elbow protection and carbon fiber supports is recommended.
- 2 Gloves are an essential. Leather and Kevlar gloves with carbon-fiber reinforcements offer additional protection.
- 3 Boots protect your feet and ankles in a collision. Serious foot and ankle injuries happen far too frequently in motorcycle crashes.
- 4 Wearing a neck collar to protect your collarbone can also prevent and minimize serious injuries. Collarbone injuries are some of the most common injuries in motorcycle crashes.



## SAFETY TIP #3

### ADHERE TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Obedience to the traffic rules is basic. Know your local traffic laws and rules of the road. Experienced motorcyclists already know these precautions, but here are some reminders:





1

Don't cross an intersection the moment the light changes. Take a moment to be sure that all crossing vehicles have stopped.

2

"Blind spots" still play a role in too many collisions. It's smart to presume that other drivers cannot see you unless they indicate otherwise.

3

Especially watch for drivers making "blind turns" out of driveways and parking lots – their vision may be obstructed. Drivers making these turns will roll slowly into traffic until they can see the traffic clearly.

## SAFETY TIP #4

### RIDE YOUR MOTORCYCLE DEFENSIVELY

For motorcyclists, passive obedience to the traffic rules won't be enough. Safety demands that you actively operate your motorcycle defensively. Keep your eyes on the road and:



1

Don't assume that other drivers can see you.

2

Always ride with the headlights on.

3

Use your turn signal well in advance of making a turn.

Complete a motorcycle safety course.

Your motorcycle dealer, your state Department of Motor Vehicles, or your local Red Cross should be able to help you find a motorcycle safety course near you.

Take a refresher course – every two to three years – to keep your riding skills sharp.

## SAFETY TIP #5

### ENHANCE YOUR RIDING SKILLS THROUGH EDUCATION



Questions about your injury?  
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## SAFETY TIP #6

### STAY AWAKE AND SOBER WHEN YOU RIDE



Twenty-six percent of fatally-injured motorcyclists in 2016 had a blood alcohol concentration at or above the legal limit. Do not – ever – operate a motorcycle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

That's just asking for trouble. Even prescription and over-the-counter medicines can make riding dangerous.

Drowsiness and fatigue also reduce your ability to react quickly, so you must be well-rested when you head out on the road.

## SAFETY TIP #7

### KEEP YOUR MOTORCYCLE MAINTAINED AND READY TO RIDE

Ensuring that your motorcycle is ready for travel is just as important as riding safely. If something is wrong with your motorcycle, your life could depend on finding it before you hit the road. Here's what you should routinely check:

- 1 Look for bulges, cracks, and signs of wear in the tires. Keep the tires fully inflated.
- 2 Check all of your headlights, taillights, and signals, including high beams.



3

Look under the bike for any signs of gas or oil leaks.

4

Coolant and hydraulic fluid levels should be checked at least weekly.

## **WHEN YOU MOUNT YOUR MOTORCYCLE, BEFORE YOU RIDE, CHECK THESE ITEMS:**

1

Adjust and clean the mirrors to ensure maximum visibility.

2

Test the front and rear brakes and the horn.

3

The clutch and throttle should move smoothly, and the throttle should “snap” back when you release it.

## **SAFETY TIP #8**

## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS – AND HOW TO PROTECT THEM**



If you suffer injuries while riding because of the actions of a negligent car, bus, or truck driver – or even another motorcyclist – you are entitled to full compensation for your medical expenses, lost wages, pain, suffering, and more.

Contact an experienced personal injury attorney at once if you have been injured by another person's negligence while riding.

A good personal injury lawyer will investigate the accident and fight aggressively for the compensation and the justice you deserve.

Nothing is more important than your health and your future. If you are injured by negligence while riding, obtain an attorney's help immediately – and put the law to work for you.

