



Tennessee Department of Safety

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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

For Drivers:

- ***Do not share the lane.***
Motorcyclists often need the full lane to respond to road hazards, other vehicles and to maximize their views. Do not share the lane with a motorcycle. You should never hold a motorcycle beside a large vehicle that may not be able to see the motorcycle in its mirrors.
- ***Always check your blind spots.***
In many crashes involving a motorcycle and another vehicle, drivers claim they didn't see the motorcycle. Check your blind spots and mirrors before changing lanes and at intersections.
- ***Always use your turn signal.***
Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane.
- ***Pay extra attention at intersections.***
Research shows two-thirds of the collisions between cars and motorcycles occur when drivers turn in front of motorcyclists. Don't be fooled by a motorcycle's flashing turn signal - motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
- ***Don't follow a motorcycle too closely.***
Tailgating a motorcyclist can make the rider nervous and could lead to a crash. It is best to allow a four-second following distance between your vehicle and a motorcycle. In bad weather, give motorcycles extra space. These conditions can interfere with a motorcycle's traction. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- ***Know basic hand signals.***
Being familiar with motorcyclist hand signals give you a better awareness of their needs and safety concerns.
 1. Left Turn - Arm pointing left with open hand.
 2. Right Turn - Arm bent up with open hand.
 3. Stop - Arm held downward with open hand.
 4. Slow Down - Arm held downward and patting at the ground.
 5. Road Hazard - Arm held down with one finger pointing in the direction of the hazard.

