

# Increasing Motorcycle Awareness



## Advice to **DRIVERS** *and* **RIDERS**

Over two-thirds of car-motorcycle crashes are caused by drivers, not by motorcyclists. The driver generally does not see the motorcyclist in time.

“*I didn't see the motorcycle.*”

Drivers tend to look for other cars not motorcycles. Because of its smaller profile, motorcycles are harder to see and it is more difficult to estimate the motorcycle's speed.

## Advice to Drivers

**Respect the motorcyclist.** Motorcycles are vehicles with the same privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel.

**Look for motorcycles.** Motorcycles are smaller profile vehicles that are harder to see and whose speeds are more difficult to estimate. Look for motorcycles at intersections, especially before making a left turn. Check your blind spots frequently and before changing lanes. Always signal your intentions.

**Allow plenty of space.** Traffic, weather and road conditions require the motorcyclists to react and maneuver differently. Allow enough room for the motorcyclist to maneuver and enough time for you to adjust.

**Be courteous and respectful.** Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.

“*The driver didn't see me coming.*”

Don't assume that the driver of another vehicle can see you. As a motorcyclist, it is your responsibility to make your presence known.

## Advice to Motorcyclists

**Make yourself visible.** Choose riding gear that increases your visibility in traffic in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash. Use bright colors and retro-reflective strips or decals, especially at night.

**Ride so you are seen.** There is no one safe place to ride. Use lane positioning to be seen. Ride with your headlight on and consider using a modulating headlight.

**Give yourself space and time to react.** Allow space for emergency braking or for avoiding a crash. Make your lane moves gradually.

**Signal your intentions.** Signal before changing lanes. Avoid weaving between lanes. Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.

**Be courteous and respect other road users.** Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.

Where to get more information:

**Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration**

Phone: 800-950-1MVA

**Maryland Highway Safety Office**

Phone: 888-963-0307

**Motorcycle Safety Foundation**

Phone: 949-727-3227

**National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration**

Phone: 202-366-1739

**American Motorcyclist Association**

Phone: 641-891-2425

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

Phone: 202-546-0983

**National Association of State Administrators**

Phone: 612-785-9242

