



## **Motorcycle Safety Tips For Riders:**

Motorcycle deaths are on the rise in South Carolina. The fatal collision usually results from another vehicle pulling into the path of the motorcyclist or the motorcyclist failing to stop. The collision is often complicated by the motorcyclist's speed and failure to use a helmet. That means you – the motorcyclist – must take your safety into your own hands. Remember these tips:

### **Intersections:**

- Before riding through an intersection, check traffic from the right, left, rear and front; 25 percent of all motorcycle crashes are caused from the other vehicle turning left across a motorcyclists' path.
- At intersections where vision is limited by buildings, parked vehicles and shrubbery, traffic hazards may be obscured. The motorist and the motorcyclist should slow down, check traffic and adjust position.
- Signal controlled intersections present two special hazards: Cross traffic may be going through on a yellow light; oncoming motorists may try to make a quick left turn in front of other traffic.

**Residential Driveways:** Automobiles are being backed out of driveways. The driver may have difficulty seeing an oncoming motorcycle. Motorcyclists should especially be aware of this hazard in residential areas by dropping speed; ensuring the driver sees them and being prepared to stop quickly.

### **Passing and Being Passed:**

- Both motorcyclist and vehicle should avoid accelerating when being passed. Both rider and driver should use mirrors and head checks to ensure the passing maneuver can be done safely.
- The motorcyclist should pass only when it is safe. Before passing, you should ensure your motorcycle is in the left portion of the lane at a safe following distance. Avoid crowding the automobile.

**Road Hazards:** Potholes, railroad tracks, oil slicks, puddles, road debris, ruts and other hazards may require sudden lane changes or result in a loss of control. Motorcyclists should scan ahead. Watch other vehicles for reactions to problems and maintain an appropriate following distance.

**Judgment:** Motorcyclists must add the skills of balance and heightened awareness to the other skills necessary for safe vehicle operation. Motorcyclists must realize that what might be a minor crash in a motor vehicle can be deadly for them – especially without helmets. That is why it is imperative that motorcyclists' judgment is not impaired by alcohol or drugs.

*For more driving safety tips, log onto [www.schp.org](http://www.schp.org) or to request a safety presentation, call the Office of Community Relations at 803-896-7920. Safety Tips provided by the SC Department of Public Safety and the national Motorcycle Safety Foundation.*

