

# MOTORCYCLISTS

Protect yourself and your motorcycle by:

- ✓ Getting properly trained and licensed.
- ✓ Wearing the appropriate safety gear.
- ✓ Riding sober.

## Get properly trained and licensed.

*Nearly half of all crashes involve riders that do not have a motorcycle endorsement, a valid driver's license or both.*

- Take a motorcycle safety course.
- Get your "CY" motorcycle endorsement on your license before you ride. It is the law.
- Choose a bike that is suited to your size, experience and skill level.

## Wear the appropriate safety gear.

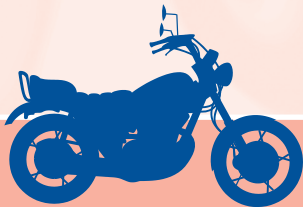
*Most crashes happen on short trips of less than five miles or at speeds slower than 30 mph. The right gear can save your life. Make sure to choose:*

- An approved helmet.
- Appropriate face or eye protection.
- Protective clothing, sturdy footwear and gloves – bright colors and reflective materials will increase your visibility.

## Ride sober.

*About 30 percent of all motorcycle fatalities involve alcohol or drugs.*

- Riding sober is the best way to keep safe on the road. Alcohol and drugs – including certain prescription and over-the-counter medications – can adversely affect your riding.



# MOTORISTS

You'll enjoy the drive even more when you:

- ✓ Watch for motorcycles.
- ✓ Don't follow a motorcycle too closely.
- ✓ Share the road.

## Watch for motorcycles.

*Motorists are at fault in nearly two-thirds of all car-motorcycle crashes.*

- Intersections are the #1 spot for crashes with motorcycles. Always look twice before proceeding.
- Left turns are a "danger zone." Look for approaching motorcycles when turning.
- Look twice when changing lanes. Double check your blind spots and signal before changing lanes.

## Don't follow a motorcycle too closely.

*Keep at least 3 to 4 seconds of time between you and a motorcycle.*

- A motorcycle stops quicker than a car or truck. Tailgating a motorcycle is dangerous and illegal.
- Traffic, weather and road conditions may force motorcycles to react quickly.
- Road debris that doesn't affect you can topple a motorcycle. Gravel, oil, trash and other hazards can pose a special danger to motorcycles.

## Share the road.

*In Michigan, the ratio of licensed motorists to motorcyclists is about 13:1.*

- Motorcyclists have the same rights as any other driver on the road.
- Motorcycles are legally entitled to a full lane.
- Be extra careful at night. A motorcycle is less visible due to its smaller size and single headlight.



Secretary of State  
Terri Lynn Land

[www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos)