

# Motorcycle Safety Information

**"Safety Doesn't Accidentally Happen!"**

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## ANIMALS



**Deer:** early morning and evening avoid country roads for freeways or drive with extreme caution. Deer alerts do work. I know more people who've been downed by a deer than a car.

**Dogs:** slow down and, if they get close, speed up and away from them.

**Armadillos:** not a huge problem here but as you head to other places, each has it's own peculiar animal hazard, i.e., like the "Spider Crossing" in Colorado for tarantulas.



## Emergency

**First aid, tools, contact card with details of medication, etc., needs, phone numbers, towing service, flares.**

If you go down, **stay down** and don't move around. Let your riding companions take care of you, your motorcycle, get emergency help, and manage traffic. Leave your helmet on if possible. Let the first aid responders determine your condition.

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## PARKING LOTS



Where most tip-overs occur even for experienced drivers. You can experience severe road surface changes here as well as unexpected traffic. Slow down, open your peripheral vision and focus on stopping in an upright position. Don't park with everyone else if it will cause you a problem, i.e., parking spot goes downhill somewhat which means you'd have to back-up uphill. Watch the crown of the road, i.e., if the road is crowned, stopping on the right side means you may not have enough tilt on your motorcycle to lean properly; stopping on the left means your motorcycle will lean over more than you are used to. Don't get so distracted you forget to put the kickstand down. I make it a habit to look down when I put the kickstand down to verify it is set.

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## PROPER RIDING GEAR



**Dress to stay warm and dry** -- you'll ride safer; goes for your passenger as well.

If you don't have waterproof boots, consider waterproof socks (REI), waterproof overshoes (Totes and more hi-end are available), plastic bags (don't laugh - beats wet socks).

Frogg Toggs has lightweight rain gear for ~\$70.

Gerbring has heated vests, gloves, etc. (you may be not need them but your passenger might...)

Cordura waterproof/water-resistant stuff is great for bad-weather riding.

Www.Motoport.com has waterproof winter gloves for \$29 (also hiway vests, neck warmers, etc.).

If you haven't already done so, winter is a great excuse to switch to that full-face helmet.

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## RIDING TIPS



**"Ride your own ride":** Certainly push the envelope but ride within your comfort zone. If you can't (or won't) ride to the group level, discuss with the ride captain. Carry maps so you aren't forced to ride to the level of the group if you are uncomfortable. Once you discuss your concerns with the ride captain, going off on your own shouldn't be an issue, but knowing you can if you need to, can ease the pressure of keeping up.

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## ROAD CONDITIONS



Wet roads (especially after a dry spell), hot tar strips, fresh asphalt, manhole covers, white road markings, oil, gravel, cattle crossings: **slow down** and stay off the brake as much as possible -- no brake grabs and minimize direction changes:

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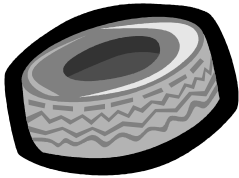
## SLEEPY?



**Don't Ride When Sleepy:** A little No Doze or coffee goes a long way when you have to go a long way OR DON'T RIDE! It's bad enough in a car and worse on a motorcycle.

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## TIRE CONDITION



Check tire pressure every ride. Check your tire tread especially during the bad-weather months. Have a tire pressure gauge and consider carrying a mini compressor for low tire pressure checks en-route. (You'd be surprised how hard it is to find air at a gas station when you need it). Don't ride on questionable tread during the bad-weather months.

Flats: slow down and stay off brake of affected tire (**use caution when using brakes – some bike's foot brake activates both front and back brakes**). Passengers stay in tight with the motorcycle -- better to go down with the ship in most cases. Check that your towing service services motorcycles -- you'll want a flat bed, not the chain....

See [Common Motorcycle Tire Wear Patterns.doc](#)

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## VISIBILITY



**Especially during dark:** reflective strips on motorcycle, clothing (vests), helmet -- back and SIDES; pulsing headlights, jogging personal lights are great on the back of a jacket or saddlebags. Just as important a tool as loud pipes. You never know, that driver getting ready to tag you might be somewhat deaf, but chances are they aren't blind.

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## WEATHER



Fog, rain, very cold weather/moisture, deep shadow; humidity that fogs up the inside of the windshield:

Windshield height -- a good height is one you can see over not through for better visibility in rain and/or fog especially if you pegs/boards are not directly under you making it hard to stand up to see.

Motorcycle and/or seat cover when parked -- leather seats can get water logged.

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## WINTER RIDING



If your motorcycle sits idle for 3 weeks or longer, consider adding gas stabilizer (GasStor) to the gas tank (keep small amount on the motorcycle for that gas fill-up after a ride). **Note: Read the GasStor instructions when doing partial fill-ups.** If it doesn't sit idle, review Proper Rider Gear above.

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## Links to Safety Information:

- Motorcycle Accidents Information Center: <http://www.motorcycleaccidentsinfocenter.com/resources.php>
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation Information References: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/00-NHT-212-motorcycle/references77-79.html>
- NHTSA Motorcycle Injury Prevention: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/>
- Drinking, Riding, and Prevention: A Focus Group Study: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/DrinkRidePrevent/index.htm>