

# Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month: Key Tips for Drivers to Share the Road

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Every May, we observe **Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month** to educate and remind all road users that motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as any other driver. It's a time to emphasize the importance of recognizing motorcyclists as equal participants on the road. In 2023, the fatality rate for motorcyclists was [28 times higher](#) than that of passenger car occupants, highlighting the urgent need for increased driver awareness. With warmer weather bringing more bikes onto the roads, drivers must stay alert, drive responsibly, and understand how to share the road.

Here are some reminders that every driver should be aware of to safely share the road with motorcyclists:

## 1. Always Check Your Blind Spots

Motorcycles are small and can easily disappear in your blind spots, especially during lane changes or merges. Always double-check your mirrors and look over your shoulder before moving over. A quick glance can save a life.

## 2. Give Motorcycles Enough Room

Never crowd a motorcycle or follow too closely. Motorcycles may need to stop more quickly than cars, and rear-ending a rider can be fatal. Give them at least a full lane width and a 3- to 4-second following distance.

## 3. Use Your Turn Signals Early

Clear communication is key. Use your turn signals well in advance so motorcyclists and other drivers can anticipate your moves. This gives riders time to adjust their speed or position safely.

## 4. Respect Their Lane Position

Motorcyclists often adjust their lane position to see better, be seen, or avoid hazards. Don't assume they're giving up space, they are likely staying safe. Never try to share a lane with a motorcycle.

## 5. Be Extra Cautious in Intersections

Most motorcycle crashes [occur at intersections](#). Always look more than once before turning or pulling out, especially when making a [left turn](#). A motorcycle may seem farther away than it actually is due to its smaller size.

## 6. Watch for Weather Changes

Rain, wind, and road debris can be much more dangerous for riders than for drivers. Give them space to maneuver and never assume they're overreacting.

## Why It Matters

Motorcyclists are more vulnerable than drivers because they do not have airbags or steel frames to protect them. Being more cautious can mean the difference between life and death.

## Final Thoughts

This May, let's commit to driving with greater awareness. Protecting motorcyclists starts with simple practices, such as checking your blind spots, leaving space, and staying alert.

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