



## **Safety Tips: *MOTORCYCLES***

### **Drivers of other passenger vehicles should always remember to follow these steps to help keep motorcyclists safe:**

- Allow a motorcyclist the full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in a traffic lane for both an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the full room to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
- Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in your blind spot or missed with a quick glance due to their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.
- Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed
- Remember that road conditions, which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles, pose MAJOR hazards to motorcyclists. Be aware that a motorcyclist may need to change speed or adjust their position within a lane *suddenly* in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, or wet or slippery surfaces.
- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when behind a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

### **Motorcyclists can increase their safety by:**

- Avoid riding in poor weather conditions.
- Wearing brightly colored protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet;
- Using turn signals for every turn or lane change, even if the rider thinks no one will see it;
- Combining hand and turn signals to draw more attention to themselves;
- Using reflective tape and stickers to increase visibility; and  
Positioning themselves in the lane where they will be most visible to other drivers