

TIPS FOR SAFELY OPERATING YOUR MOTORCYCLE-FROM YOUR SAFETY OFFICER

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With the increase in traffic flow, comes a greater need to evaluate and reduce the possibility of being struck by an automobile.

According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, among the most common causes for motorcycle-auto crashes are automobiles turning left into motorcycles and automobiles striking motorcycles from the rear.

Causes of Left Turn Motorcycle-Auto Crashes

Automobile drivers' failure to see an approaching motorcycle

Automobile drivers' failure to judge the speed of an approaching motorcycle

Automobile drivers' failing to see an approaching motorcycle that is following behind an oncoming automobile

How to avoid left turn crashes with automobiles

Wear bright colored protective gear such as helmets and jackets

Increase the distance between your motorcycle and the vehicle you are following

Evaluate vehicles exiting from driveways, parking lots and at intersections-view these locations as major threat sites. Be prepared to take evasive action if needed. Observe the vehicle wheels, not the vehicle itself, when they are exiting from these locations. Looking at the wheels will give you a better clue of the path the vehicle is going to take.

Be aware of the movement of traffic around you, should you need to take evasive action. It will do no good to brake hard if you get hit from the rear end by a vehicle tailgating you.

Constantly scan for potential escape routes while riding.

If a situation arises where you must take evasive action, make every attempt to stay upright on the motorcycle while applying both brakes to reduce your speed and attempting to ride out of the situation.

Automobiles Striking Motorcycles from the Rear

According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, many automobile-motorcycle rear end crashes occur at intersections while the motorcycle is stopped behind vehicles.

How to avoid being struck from behind by an automobile when riding a motorcycle

When stopped behind a vehicle at a traffic light position your motorcycle a safe distance back

Stop in the left or right track

Cover your controls

Monitor your rearview mirror

Tap your brake lights intermittently

These methods allow an escape route from a potential rear end collision.

Hopefully, you will find this information helpful!

Ride Safe,

Ray Hardyman

AZ II Chapter Vice President and Safety Officer