



Advice for *Motorcyclists*

Despite representing less than 2% of the total number of licensed vehicles in Ireland, motorcycle users accounted for 12% of road fatalities in 2001. Motorcycle and moped riders are vulnerable road users.

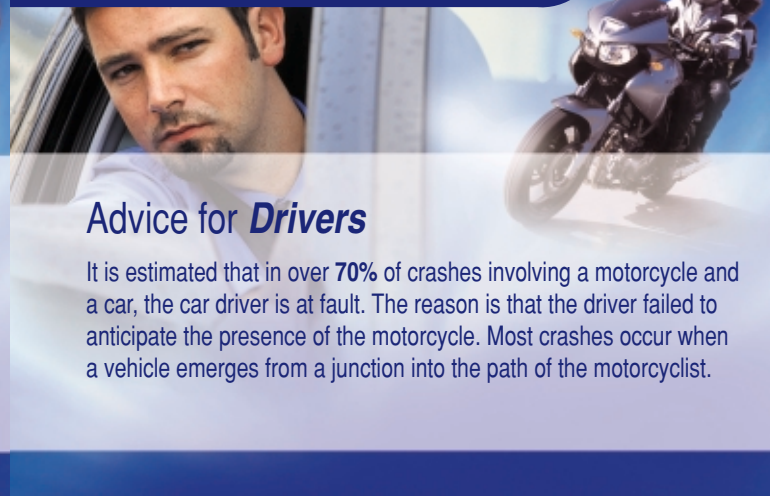
Motorcycling can be safe. A confident and careful riding style will enable other vehicles to see you.

Safe Motorcycling

- Don't assume you are visible to drivers of other vehicles
- Avoid the driver's blind spots
- Always signal clearly and early
- Watch out for pedestrians
- Don't weave in and out of traffic
- When filtering in traffic be aware of cars changing lane, doors opening, passengers alighting and the possibility that some vehicles will turn across your path
- Use your headlights day and night
- Never ever drink and ride
- Always wear a helmet to approved specifications
- Make sure your bike is road worthy and know its capabilities
- Wear brightly coloured, reflective clothing
- Expect the unexpected
- Maintain a safe speed consistent with driving conditions
- On windy days allow for the breeze, as it may blow you off course
- Keep a safe distance from vehicles in front. Remember the 2 second rule
- **Complete an approved motorcycle rider-training course**



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Advice for *Drivers*

It is estimated that in over 70% of crashes involving a motorcycle and a car, the car driver is at fault. The reason is that the driver failed to anticipate the presence of the motorcycle. Most crashes occur when a vehicle emerges from a junction into the path of the motorcyclist.

Eyes Wide Open!

- Be extra alert for motorcycles and mopeds at or near intersections. They can be difficult to see in heavy traffic.
- Pay particular attention when making right turns across traffic, to ensure that a motorcyclist may not be coming straight through.
- Make room. Motorcyclists are entitled to a full lane of traffic, just like another car, van or truck.
- Keep a safe distance from the motorcyclist. Because of traffic conditions or other road hazards motorcyclists may have to swerve or stop suddenly.
- Check your blind spots before turning, changing lanes, reversing, or parking. Many crashes occur because a driver did not check or see the motorcyclist.
- Use extreme care when overtaking. Because of the smaller size of a bike, a car, van or truck passing too fast or too close could blow the motorcyclist out of control.
- **Always exercise care, caution and consideration towards all road users, especially motorcyclists.**



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