

# Wyoming



## Rules of the Road



*State of Wyoming*  
Driver License Manual  
**Motorcycle 2021**

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# CUSTOMER SERVICE GUIDE

## Licensing

### Requirements to drive

To drive legally in Wyoming, you must have a valid driver license, instruction permit, intermediate license or restricted license. Wyoming licenses are issued by the Driver Services Program of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT).

### Those who do not need a Wyoming driver license are:

- Employees of the United States government operating vehicles owned or leased by the U.S. government;
- Members of the Armed Forces stationed in Wyoming, and their dependents, who have a valid license issued by their state of residence;
- Full-time students attending the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming junior college and who have a valid license from another state; and
- Any person licensed by another state which is a Driver License Compact member (see page 28), unless the person chooses to have a Wyoming driver license. Such an out-of-state license must be surrendered within one year of residency in Wyoming.

### Who cannot get a Wyoming driver license

Certain individuals may not get a Wyoming license. They include:

- Persons under 16 years of age;
- Persons whose driving privileges are suspended, canceled, denied or revoked in this or any other state (All applicants are checked through the Problem Driver Pointer System and other electronic systems to make sure there are no adverse actions against them);
- Persons who fail any portion of a required driver license examination;
- Persons who have been judged legally incompetent;
- Persons who are habitual users of alcohol or any controlled substance;
- Persons who are in violation of the immigration laws of the United States.

# Your Wyoming license

## Non-commercial license classes

### Class C

The Class C license authorizes operation of a single vehicle or combination of vehicles, except motorcycles, with a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds or any such vehicle towing another which does not have a GVWR in excess of 10,000 pounds. In addition, the Class C CDL license allows the operation of vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or which is placarded for transportation of hazardous materials.

### Class M

The class "M" license is issued solely for the operation of motorcycles, but the Class "A," "B," or "C" licenses may include the "M" classification.



## Restriction codes

Restriction codes mean that license holders may only operate a vehicle in certain circumstances or if special provisions are met. The codes are:

- A** – Automatic transmission
- B** – Corrective lenses
- C** – Mechanical aid
- D** – Prosthetic aid
- E** – No manual transmission; CDL only
- G** – Daylight driving only
- I** – Limited others
- J** – Valid without photo or signature
- K** – Intrastate driving only; CDL only
- L** – Vehicle without air brakes; CDL only
- M** – Class B bus; CDL only
- N** – Class C bus; CDL only
- O** – CDL only
- P** – No passengers; CDL only
- R** – 4-wheel recreational vehicle only
- V** – Must have variance letter or SPE certificate in possession; CDL only
- X** – No cargo in tank; CDL only
- Z** – No full air brake; CDL only

## Getting your license

To obtain a Wyoming driver license, a person must be of sufficient age, provide legal proof of identification and Wyoming residency and then pass a written knowledge test, a vision screening and a driving skills test. Applicants under 18 years of age must also have a release signed by a legal parent or guardian.

## Age requirements

For full driving privileges, an applicant must be at least 17 or be 16-1/2 and have completed a qualifying driver education course and held an intermediate license. At 16 an applicant may obtain limited driving privileges by acquiring an intermediate license. An instruction permit may be obtained at 15.

## Acceptable legal identification

First-time applicants for a driver license or identification card must provide a state-certified birth certificate, a valid U.S. passport or immigration documents. If the last name has changed from the verification document, then proof of name change is required, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree or court order. Applicants also must be able to verify their Social Security number by presenting a Social Security card, W-2 form or financial/banking statement that includes their Social Security number.

**When licensees change their addresses, they must notify the department in writing within 10 days of the change.** Forms for address changes are available at all exam locations and on the WYDOT website at [http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver\\_license\\_records/formsapplications/general-forms.html](http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver_license_records/formsapplications/general-forms.html).

## Acceptable Proof of Residency

Any two of the following are acceptable documents that must be provided as proof that you are a Wyoming resident, and they must show a residential address, not a P.O. Box:

- Vehicle title and/or registration;
- Property tax and/or mortgage documents;
- Rental, lease or other documents showing residence in the state;
- Federal tax documents with a Wyoming address;
- Bank statements from a Wyoming bank or credit union; or
- Any other legal documents showing a Wyoming address.

## Required tests

### Vision screening

A person must have 20/40 acuity with both eyes, either with or without glasses, and a combined horizontal field vision of at least 120 degrees to meet Wyoming vision standards for operating a motor vehicle. Those who fail the vision screening must obtain a vision statement from an eye specialist. If contact lenses or glasses are used to pass the screening, they will be required while driving. If your visual acuity is worse than 20/40 but at least 20/100, you will be required to take a riding skills test.

### Written test – Automated Testing System

A written test covering the rules of the road and safe riding practices may be required. Questions are taken from the information in this manual. The test includes: (1) identification of traffic signs by shape, color or symbol; (2) identification of signals and pavement markings; and (3) correct answers to multiple choice questions about traffic laws, safety rules, crash prevention and vehicle equipment. Applicants for a motorcycle license are allowed to take the written test twice in one day. All tests are given in English only, so if a person cannot speak or write the English language, an interpreter may be used. Oral tests are available, but the applicant must request one prior to taking the test.

Wyoming Driver License Practice Tests are available at <https://gowyld.driving-tests.org/wyoming/>.

### Skills test

First-time applicants, who have never been licensed in this or any other state, are required to pass a skills test consisting of safe riding maneuvers. Applicants are not asked to do anything against the law. Others situations may require a driver to pass a riding test to demonstrate their riding ability. Applicants who fail are required to wait 24 hours before testing again. Applicants who miss 13 or more questions must wait three days to be retested.

The on-cycle skills test may be waived for those who present proof, in the form of a certification card, that they have completed an approved Motorcycle Safety Course. The certification card will be honored for no longer than two years.

## **On-cycle skill test**

Basic vehicle control and crash-avoidance skills are included in on-cycle tests to determine your ability to handle normal and hazardous traffic situations. You may be tested for your ability to:

- Know your motorcycle and your riding limits;
- Accelerate, brake and turn safely;
- See, be seen and communicate with others;
- Adjust speed and position to the traffic situation;
- Stop, turn and swerve quickly; and
- Make critical decisions and carry them out.

Examiners may score on factors related to safety such as:

- Selecting safe speeds to perform maneuvers;
- Choosing the correct path and staying within boundaries;
- Completing normal and quick stops; and
- Completing normal and quick turns or swerves.

The on-cycle skill test will be conducted in a controlled, off street area.

# License services

## First Wyoming licenses

Applicants must pass all parts of the examination, including a written knowledge test, vision screening and on-cycle skills test. The skills test may be waived if a valid out-of-state license or a certificate from an approved motorcycle safety course is presented. **Applicants under 18, must have a minor's release signed by a legal parent or guardian.**

## Instruction permits

Applicants should be prepared to pass a written knowledge test and vision screening. An instruction permit may be issued for the purpose of learning to operate a motorcycle or a four-wheel ATV. However a passenger cannot accompany the learner on these vehicles. If the applicant is applying for a 90-day permit, the riding skills test is not given. The motorcycle license fee will be charged.

## Renewals

Renewals are issued to all persons who hold a valid Wyoming license. Licensees over 21 may renew within the 120-day period preceding expiration. Licensees under 21 may renew within 90 days of expiration. If licensee is under 21 and wants an "adult"-type license, they can only renew within 30 days of their 21st birthday. Applicants must pass a vision screening. A skills test may be required at the discretion of the examiner.

## Renewals by mail

Drivers may renew their current Wyoming license by mail once every other renewal period. Renewal applications are mailed to the current address on record for those whose licenses have not been canceled, revoked within the previous five years, or who have not renewed or disqualified by mail within the previous five years. Applications are mailed 120 days prior to expiration to persons over 21 and 90 days prior to expiration to persons under 21.

## Renewals of expired licenses

Persons who let their license expire must apply in person for a new license and may be required to take all phases of the examination, including the written test, vision screening and skills test.

## Driver license fees

### Non-commercial licenses

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Original Wyoming License      | \$40 |
| Restricted License            | \$20 |
| Renewal                       | \$30 |
| Renewal of License by Mail    | \$30 |
| Instruction Permit            | \$40 |
| Restricted Instruction Permit | \$20 |
| Intermediate License          | \$30 |

### Commercial licenses

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Original Wyoming License   | \$50 |
| Renewal                    | \$40 |
| Class Change               | \$40 |
| Commercial Learners Permit | \$40 |

### Other fees

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Motorcycle license                     | \$6  |
| Identification Card                    | \$10 |
| CDL Skills Test (by appointment only)  | \$80 |
| Individual Driving Records             | \$5  |
| Record Review                          | \$15 |
| Contested Hearing                      | \$25 |
| Non CDL Probationary License           | \$50 |
| Reinstatement Fee                      | \$50 |
| Emancipated Minor Indication           | \$2  |
| Child support suspension reinstatement | \$5  |

**NOTE:** *An additional technology fee of \$5 will be imposed on all classes of driver licenses and CDL Skills tests. All fees are subject to change.*

## Full driving privileges

### At age 17

At 17, an applicant may be issued a Wyoming driver's license with full driving privileges without having been issued an intermediate license or any other type of license or permit. However, the applicant may not be issued a license if any current, restricted driving privileges have been suspended. An applicant must:

- Present proof of identity;
- Pass the vision screening, a written test and a driving skills test;
- Have a parent or legal guardian sign the Minor's Release Form and pay the required fee.

### At 16 and one-half

At 16 and one-half years of age, applicants may also be issued full driving privileges if they have a current intermediate license that is at least six months old, their current, restricted driving privileges have not been suspended, and if they have completed a driver education course approved by the Wyoming Department of Education. This applicant must:

- Present a signed certificate of completion from an approved driver education course which includes behind-the-wheel driving;
- Present proof of identity;
- Pass a vision screening;
- Have a parent or legal guardian sign the Minor's Release Form and pay the required fee.

## Age restricted licenses

### For extreme inconvenience

A restricted license may be issued to applicants, 14-15, when an extreme inconvenience exists in their household. The applicant **must** have held an instruction permit and must live five or more miles from school and/or employment. **The Wyoming Highway Patrol approves applications for restricted licenses.**

The license is only valid between the hours of 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. and within 50 miles of the licensee's residence. The license will be suspended if the licensee is convicted of one moving traffic violation or of driving outside the designated hours or the 50-mile radius limitation. A restricted license expires 30 days after the holder's 16th birthday.

A restricted **instruction permit** is available for applicants, ages 14-15 years, who have been approved for a restricted license but do not currently hold an instruction permit. The permit is valid for 60 days.

## **Intermediate licenses**

A license may also be issued to applicants at age 16 when they acquire an intermediate license.

At 16 an applicant may be issued an intermediate license if he or she:

- Has held a Restricted Class C (RC) license, or
- Held an Instruction Permit and has completed 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving, including 10 hours of nighttime driving, as certified by a parent or legal guardian.

### **The Intermediate license applicant must also:**

- Present proof of identity;
- Pass a vision screening and a driving skills test (The driving skills test may be waived if the applicant has completed an approved driver education course);
- Have a minor's release signed by a parent or legal guardian; and pay the required fee.

### **Holders of Intermediate licenses:**

- May not transport more than one passenger under the age of 18 who is not an immediate family member unless also accompanied by a licensed driver 18 years of age or older (Intermediate motorcycle permit holders may not carry any passengers while driving their motorcycles);
- Must ensure that all occupants of the vehicle are wearing seat belts; and
- May not drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless the holder meets an exception criteria and presents a completed exception form.

### **An exception form allows driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., if the driver is:**

- Required to drive for a medical necessity, that is certified by medical personnel; or
- Required to drive to or from work, as certified by an employer; or
- Required to drive to or from school, a school activity, organized youth sports activity or a religious activity, as certified by parent or legal guardian; or

- Required to drive for a medical emergency, as evidenced by medical personnel.

The appropriate individual (as determined by the exception) must complete and sign the exception form, and it must be carried by the licensee and presented to law enforcement if the holder is stopped.

### **Intermediate license suspension**

An intermediate license will be suspended for 30 days for any violation of these provisions.

### **Intermediate license expiration**

An intermediate license automatically expires 30 days after the holder's 17th birthday.

### **Motorcycle permits**

Youths at least 15 may be issued restricted-use instruction permits, upon successfully passing a written exam and a vision test, to ride a motorcycle for a period of 90 days. If such applicants also pass a riding test, they qualify for an instruction permit that allows them to operate a motorcycle for one year. A permit holder may not operate a motorcycle with a passenger.

Holders of one of these instruction permits who are at least 16 and have also completed practice driving of at least 50 actual driving hours, including at least 10 hours of night driving, also qualify for an intermediate permit that entitles them to drive a specified type or class of motor vehicle. However this permit will not be issued unless a parent or guardian certifies the applicant has completed these practice-driving requirements.

At no time may a holder of an intermediate motorcycle permit operate the motorcycle with any passenger.

The most important 4.5  
hours of your life.

# Alive at 25

Saving Lives Through Education  
National Law  
Enforcement Curriculum



[aliveat25.us](http://aliveat25.us)

## Licenses for disabled drivers

WYDOT understands that most people place great value in being able to drive and that, without the widespread availability of public transportation in Wyoming, it is even more important for persons with disabilities to have driving privileges whenever possible. Therefore Driver Services wishes to facilitate the licensing process for disabled people while making sure that the applicant is able to drive safely before actually issuing a license. It may be necessary to have a medical and/or vision statement completed by a physician before a license is issued.



Many applicants need or use special equipment to drive safely. It is WYDOT's responsibility to license an applicant with any restrictions recommended by their physician, optometrist or ophthalmologist and as a result of a skills test, when deemed necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle.

## Additional driver/ motoring services

### Wyoming Amber Alert System

In 2003, Wyoming Law Enforcement, the Association of Broadcasters, the National Weather Service (NWS), the Cable TV Association and the Department of Transportation (DOT) coordinated the Amber Alert Plan. The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is the designated liaison between the local law enforcement agency and the NWS, broadcasters and DOT. All of the following criteria must be met prior to DCI activating an Amber Alert:

- A child has been abducted.
- The child **must** be 17 years of age or younger.
- The child **must** be in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There **must** be enough descriptive information to believe a broadcast will assist or help in the recovery.

The Wyoming Amber Alert Plan is designed to broadcast critical information about an abducted child believed to be in danger, using the Emergency Alert System, via radio and television. If an Amber Alert is activated, please do be aware of the information provided.

## **Accessing your driving record**

WYDOT maintains a computerized driving record of every driver in the state. It contains a record of all convictions, motor vehicle convictions, and adverse actions as a result of these convictions.

You may obtain a copy of your driver record at any of the local exam stations upon presenting your driver license or other legal forms of identification and payment of the fee. A legal parent or guardian can obtain a copy of a child's driver record, if the child is a minor under the age of 18 years. It is possible to obtain another's driver record provided a written release is presented to the examiner from the person whose driver record is being released.

A person can also obtain a copy of their driver record by submitting a written request along with the required fee to the department. The fee for the driving record may be paid by credit card; however, this must be stipulated in the written request with a phone number to contact the person requesting the record.

The Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act prohibits WYDOT from providing personal information to individuals and businesses for the purposes of surveys, marketing and solicitations. Personal information includes photographs and digital images, signatures, telephone numbers and medical/disability information. It does not prohibit the release of records pertaining to vehicular crashes, driving violations and driver license or registration status.

## **Wyoming Organ and Tissue Donor Registry**

Applications for a Wyoming driver's license or identification card ask whether or not you wish to register to be an organ donor. The Department of Transportation is authorized to electronically transfer donor status to the Donor Registry. A parent's or guardian's signature is required to approve an anatomical gift for minors under eighteen (18) years of age.

If you wish to be a donor, a donor designation is indicated on your driver's license or identification card. You can directly register or remove your name from the Donor Registry by accessing the Web site at *www.WyomingDonorRegistry.org*.

Organ donation is a deeply personal decision only you and your family can make. You'll feel good knowing that you could leave the one thing money cannot buy – life.

## **Disabled placards**

Permanent disabled placards are issued to persons who suffer from physical impairments. The impairment must last a minimum of 12 months. Temporary placards may be issued to persons who suffer an impairment for up to 6 months.

Applications are available at all driver license exam stations and on the website at *http://www.dot.state.wy.us/driverservices*, then navigate to the forms page. The application must be completed by a physician. To obtain disabled plates, you must complete an application for a placard and indicate on the form that you want license plates. You may be issued one placard and one or more sets of plates, or two placards and no license plates.

Disabled placards are available at no cost to the applicant.

## **Medical Alert**

Applications for a Wyoming driver's license or identification card ask whether or not you wish to specify a medical condition to first responder or law enforcement officer in the event you are unable to communicate it yourself.

If you wish to specify a medical condition, a medical alert designation is indicated on your driver's license or identification card. The designation information can be removed or changed in the system anytime by contacting Driver Services.

## Wildlife Conservation

Applications for a Wyoming driver's license or identification card ask whether or not you wish to donate to Wildlife Conservation. If you choose to donate, you will indicate the amount you are donating on the application and the examiner will collect this amount along with any other fees.

Funds in the wildlife conservation account shall only be used to provide for wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation system, including signage, wildlife corridors, wildlife crossings and game fences.

## Losing the privilege to drive

### License suspensions, cancellations and revocations

Driving in Wyoming, as in all states, is a privilege, not a right. Abuse the privilege, and you may lose it.

### Drinking and driving suspensions

#### Administrative Per Se Suspension

An Administrative Per Se Suspension and a Disqualification of Commercial Driving Privileges results when you have been arrested for DWUI and the results of your chemical test show an alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or greater. Dismissal of the DWUI in court will not affect the Administrative Per Se suspension.

Length of suspension: 90 days. (*If you are convicted of the DWUI in court, the time served for the Administrative Per Se suspension will be credited toward the DWUI suspension.*)

Length of disqualification: One year if this is a first major offense and lifetime if this is a second or subsequent major offense.

Start of suspension/disqualification: 30 days after the issuance of the temporary driver's license and notice of suspension given by the officer at the time of the arrest, or at the end of any existing suspension or revocation. The procedure to apply for limited driving privileges or a contested case hearing is explained on the form issued by the officer.

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** You may be eligible, if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible. NOTE: You cannot have an ignition interlock requirement.

**Reinstatement requirements:**

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

## **Driving While Under the Influence**

A DWUI results when you have been convicted in court of Driving While Under the Influence. (In addition to an Administrative Per Se/Refusal, you may be convicted of DWUI or receive a deferred prosecution under W.S. 7-13-301.)

**1st offense** (within previous 10 years)

**Length of suspension:** 90 days. *(If you served or are serving a suspension for Administrative Per Se, the suspension period will be the same.)*

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** You may be eligible, if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years, are otherwise eligible and do not have an ignition interlock requirement.

**Ignition Interlock Requirement:** If your BAC (blood alcohol content) at the time of arrest was .15% or greater, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of 6 months before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

**Reinstatement requirements:**

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; or
- Application for an ignition interlock restricted driver license, if .15% BAC or higher at arrest, must show proof of ignition interlock device installation; and
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

**2nd offense** (within previous 10 years)

**Length of suspension:** One year. *(If you served or are serving a suspension for Administrative Per Se, an additional nine-month suspension will be added to your record.)*

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** No, according to Wyoming law. *Limited driving privileges cannot be issued for any DWUI after the first offense, unless convicted of DWUI that includes alcohol.*

**Ignition Interlock Requirement:** If convicted for DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of one year before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

**Reinstatement requirements:**

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; or
- Application for an ignition interlock restricted driver license, if required, must show proof of ignition interlock device installation; and
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

**3rd or subsequent offense** (within 10 years)

**Length of revocation:** Three years.

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** No, unless convicted of DWUI that includes alcohol.

**Ignition Interlock Requirement:** If convicted of 3rd DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of two year plus the remainder of the revocation period before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

If convicted of 4th or subsequent DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for life, but you may petition to the court, 5 years from your conviction date, for removal of the lifetime ignition interlock requirement.

**Reinstatement requirements:**

- Completion of all suspension/revocation actions on record; or
- Application for an ignition interlock restricted driver license, if required, must show proof of ignition interlock device installation; and
- Filing of an SR-22;
- Payment of reinstatement fee;
- Undergo an alcohol/drug evaluation;
- Successfully complete an alcohol/drug treatment program;

- Complete and pass a re-examination of the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. If you are re-licensed, you may be restricted to “No alcohol or substance abuse offenses,” and must follow counselor's recommendations. NOTE: If you have obtained an ignition interlock restricted license and there are no violations, your re-examination and additional restriction may be waived.

## **Youthful Driver Suspension**

If you are younger than 21 years of age and are in actual physical control of a vehicle with an alcohol concentration of two one-hundredths of one percent (0.02 percent) or more, you will be suspended for DWUI.

### **First offense:**

Length of suspension: 90 days.

Second or subsequent offense: (within two years)

Length of suspension: Six months.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible, if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible. NOTE: You cannot have an ignition interlock requirement.

## **Ignition Interlock Requirement**

### **First offense:**

If your BAC (blood alcohol content) at the time of arrest was .15% or greater, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of 6 months before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

### **Second offense:**

If convicted for DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of one year before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

## **Other types of suspension**

### **Reckless Driving Suspension**

This suspension results upon receipt of a conviction of

driving a vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

**First offense** (within previous five years)

Length of suspension: 90 days.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and you are otherwise eligible.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension actions on record;
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

**Second offense** (within previous five years)

Length of suspension: Six months.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension actions on record;
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

**Third or subsequent offense** (within five years)

Length of revocation: One year.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? No.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension/revocation actions on record;
- Filing of an SR-22;
- Payment of reinstatement fee;
- Complete and pass a re-examination of the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

**Transporting Liquor to a Minor Suspension**

This results from a conviction for the intent of furnishing any alcoholic liquid or malt beverage to any person under the age of 21 while operating or occupying a motor vehicle.

Length of suspension: One year.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be

eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible.

**Reinstatement requirements:**

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

## **Non-Resident Violator Compact Suspension**

This results when a court informs the department that you have not complied with the terms of a traffic citation. This includes citations from other states as well as Wyoming. The state where the violator is licensed takes suspension action, not the state where the offense occurred. (It is named the Non-Resident Violator Compact to ensure that non-residents receive the same treatment as residents when they receive a traffic citation.)

**Length of suspension:** Until notice of satisfaction of the requirements of the citation are received from the court, and payment of the reinstatement fee.

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** No.

**Reinstatement requirements:** (prior to start date of suspension)

- Notice from the court indicating you have satisfied the requirements of the citation. (Suspension will be deleted from record.)

**Reinstatement requirements:** (after start date of suspension)

- Notice from the court indicating you have satisfied the requirements of the citation; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

## **Moving Violation Suspension**

You are allowed up to three moving violations within a 12-month period. Upon receipt of conviction for a fourth moving violation, you will be notified that your driving privilege will be suspended. A moving violation means an act of control or lack of control by the driver of a motor vehicle while the vehicle is in motion that results in a conviction, including a conviction for driving in violation of the restriction.

**Length of suspension:** 90 days. Each additional moving violation received within a 12-month period will cause

an additional 90-day suspension. The date of the offense is used when determining the 12-month period. (\*\*See section "Restricted Class RC/RM Licenses" and "Intermediate License Suspension" on page 25 for additional suspension information.)

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible.

**Reinstatement requirements:**

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

## **Compulsory Insurance Suspension**

This is a result of a conviction in court of not having liability insurance.

**Length of suspension:** Until an SR-22 insurance form has been filed with the department.

**Am I eligible for limited driving privileges?** No.

**Reinstatement requirements:** (prior to start date of suspension)

- Filing of an SR-22 (Suspension will be deleted from record.)

**Reinstatement requirements:** (after start date of suspension)

- Filing of an SR-22
- Payment of reinstatement fee

## **Unlawful Use & False Application Suspension and/or Cancellation**

This suspension results from displaying, or using someone else's license or identification card -OR- having in your possession any license or ID card which has been tampered with or altered. It is unlawful to lend your license or ID card to someone else to use as their identification, to knowingly make a false statement, give fictitious information, use a false name, or conceal a fact on an application for a license or ID card. It is against the law to apply for a license or ID card using a name, address, Social Security number or birth date belonging to another person. These actions may result in the cancellation of the card, and/or a 90-day suspension for the person using or lending the driver's license or ID card.

## **Child Support Suspension**

This results upon notification from the Department of Family Services (DFS) that you are in arrears of \$5,000 or more for 90 consecutive days. The suspension will remain in effect until notification is received from DFS that the person has complied in full or has entered into an approved payment plan, and a \$5 reinstatement fee is paid.

## **Restricted Class RC/RM License Suspension**

This suspension is the result of a moving violation conviction when the driver is holding a class RC/RM license at the time of offense. A 90-day suspension is imposed for a first offense and a one-year suspension for a second or subsequent offense.

## **Intermediate License Suspension**

This suspension is the result of a violation of the restrictions for an intermediate license. A 30-day suspension is imposed for this offense.

## **Driving under Suspension, Revocation or Cancellation**

This results in a 30-day suspension of your driving privileges if you are under 21 years of age.

## **Uninsured Accident Suspension**

This is a result of the driver's insurance not being verifiable at the time of the crash.

**Reinstatement requirements:** If you were uninsured, you can do one of the following:

- Submit a notarized release from the other party(s) involved in the crash stating they are not holding you liable for their damages and/or injuries or that you have made restitution to them; OR
- Submit a conditional release signed and notarized by you and the other party(s) stating an agreement has been made for you to make payments for their damages and/or injuries; OR
- Post a cash deposit for the total amount of property damage, plus \$25,000 per injury. One year from the date of the crash, you will be entitled to a refund of your cash deposit; provided there are no judgments against you.

- If you are unable to provide any of the above, you can provide a signed and notarized affidavit one year from the date of the crash, stating that there are no unsatisfied judgments as a result of the crash.

Should you be suspended, you will be required to pay the reinstatement fee and file an SR-22 in addition to one of the above requirements.

## **Suspension-related matters**

### **Requests for limited driving privileges and/or contested case hearings**

In some suspension cases, you may be eligible for limited driving privileges. If so, you may request a Record Review to see if you are eligible to be issued a probationary driver license which will allow you limited driving privileges during the suspension period. You must submit your request in writing and include the required fee. Both the written request and the fee must be postmarked within 20 days of the date of notice you receive. You can only be issued one probationary driver's license in a five-year period

If you wish to contest the suspension of your privilege to drive, you may submit your request for a **Contested Case Hearing**, in writing, along with the required fee. Your written request must be postmarked within 20 days of the date of the notice you receive.

### **License reinstatement fee**

Generally, the reinstatement fee for suspensions is \$50. This fee is in addition to any fees for a new driver license, if one is issued to you. The reinstatement fee for a child support suspension is \$5.

### **Revocation**

A revocation cancels your driver license, and you must go through a driver investigation to be re-licensed once the revocation is over. You cannot have limited driving privileges during a revocation. Offenses that will cause a revocation are:

- Third or subsequent Driving While Under the Influence (DWUI);
- Third or subsequent Reckless Driving;
- Leaving the Scene of an Injury Accident;

- Homicide by Vehicle;
- A felony which is a direct result of the manner of driving.

## **SR-22**

An SR-22 is an insurance certificate that your insurance company files with the department. Wyoming Statute 31-9-401 requires that proof of financial responsibility be required for certain violations or actions. Proof of financial responsibility must be maintained for three years from the date it is required. When an SR-22 is on file, the insurance company must notify the department when there is a cancellation of the insurance. During a suspension, the SR-22, for the duration of your ignition interlock requirement, if required, is required to maintain your vehicle registration or for a probationary driver license, if one is issued to you. If the SR-22 is not on file by the end of your mandatory suspension, your driving privilege will remain suspended until the SR-22 is filed.

## **Start of suspension/revocation**

The start of a suspension/revocation is 30 days from the date the order is mailed to you by the department or given to you by law enforcement, or at the end of any suspensions already on your record.

## **Ignition Interlock Devices**

Ignition interlock devices are required to be installed, at the applicant's expense, upon conviction of the following offenses:

- Six-month ignition interlock requirement if convicted, or receive a deferred prosecution, of a 1st DWUI and the department's administrative action indicates a BAC of .15 percent or greater.
- One-year ignition interlock requirement if convicted of a 2nd DWUI when alcohol is involved.
- Two-year ignition interlock requirement if convicted of a 3rd DWUI when alcohol is involved; however, ignition interlock requirement for duration of three-year revocation to legally drive.
- Lifetime ignition interlock requirement if convicted of a 4th or subsequent DWUI when alcohol is involved; however, may petition for removal of requirement five years after conviction date.

For more information, contact Driver Services at 307-777-3837.

Drivers convicted of alcohol-related offenses requiring the ignition interlock device, are also required to do the following:

- File an SR-22 insurance form.
- Pay the \$50 reinstatement fee.
- Pay the \$100 ignition interlock fee.
- Have the ignition interlock device installed on any vehicle they drive at an installation site and by a technician certified by the department.
- Bring the lease agreement/certification of installation to their local driver exam office to be issued the IIR restricted driver license. The applicant's driving privilege must not be suspended, revoked or canceled in this or any other state for any reason other than the DWUI conviction that caused the ignition interlock requirement, or the license cannot be issued.
- Take and pass any tests required for licensing.

A driver is not eligible for any other type of driver license until they have held an ignition interlock restricted driver license for the period required.

A driver may apply for a 24/7 restricted driver license if they have received an order from the Court ordering the driver to participate in the 24/7 Sobriety Program in lieu of the ignition interlock requirement.

For a list of ignition interlock vendors and installers in Wyoming, please visit our website at: [http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver\\_license\\_records/suspensionsignition-interlock/ignition\\_interlock.html](http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver_license_records/suspensionsignition-interlock/ignition_interlock.html)

## **Safety laws/issues**

### **The Driver License Compact**

Wyoming is a member of the Driver License Compact. The compact provides guidelines for greater cooperation among states in driver license issues, and provides a *one license, one record* concept. All states except Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee and Wisconsin are currently members.

# How alcohol and drugs affect you and your ability to drive

## Alcohol the major cause of crashes

Driving while under the influence of alcohol is the major cause of ALMOST HALF of the crashes in which someone is killed. Nationwide, nearly 25,000 persons die each year because of drivers who have been drinking.

Alcohol is a drug that slows the activity of the brain and spinal cord. When alcohol enters the stomach, it goes directly into the blood and to all parts of the body, including the brain. Its effect is to put the brain to sleep when taken in sufficient amounts.



Alcohol directly affects a person's ability to drive. If a person drinks increasing amounts of alcohol, the amount of alcohol in the blood will rise accordingly, and the degree of impairment and the intensity of the effect will rise rapidly.

The amount or concentration of alcohol in the blood is known as Blood Alcohol Concentration or BAC. Three factors influence a person's BAC:

- The amount of alcohol consumed;
- The period of time over which the alcohol was consumed; and
- The person's body weight.

## Effects of the amount of alcohol

Pure ethyl alcohol is a colorless liquid that looks like water but has a burning taste. It mixes readily with other liquids. Its strength is reduced by the amount of water or mix used. Beer usually contains about 5 percent alcohol, wines 12 or 20 percent, and hard liquors, such as whiskey, gin, vodka, rum, brandy, etc., about 40 to 50 percent. Therefore, 12 ounces of beer, three to five ounces of wine, and one and one-half ounces of 86 proof hard liquor each have about one-half ounce of alcohol.

## Effects of time

When alcohol reaches the stomach, it is absorbed directly into the blood stream. As more and more alcohol

is absorbed, the percentage of alcohol in the blood gets higher and higher.

A person may feel the effects of alcohol shortly after starting to drink. The effects will increase with the passage of time since it takes 30 to 40 minutes to totally absorb the alcohol contained in a single drink.

While food or milk in the stomach does slow absorption, two hours later it won't matter if you had been drinking on a full stomach or not. If two persons of equal weight drink the same amount they will have about the same BAC at the end of that two-hour period. **TIME IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN REDUCING BAC LEVELS.**

Approximately 90 percent of the alcohol in your body is eliminated by the liver. It is eliminated at a constant rate and this rate is about the same for all persons, about one drink per hour. It CANNOT be eliminated any faster. *SHOWERING, DRINKING COFFEE OR EXERCISING IN AN EFFORT TO SOBER UP ARE USELESS.* Only TIME can do the job.

### **Effects of body weight**

Heavier people do have more blood and body fluids which dilute a given amount of alcohol more than a light person's blood and fluids. Therefore if a heavy person and a light person drink the same amount of alcohol, the heavy person will likely have a lower BAC.

### **Drunkenness is not always apparent**

A BAC of 0.02 percent is considered low and most persons are not significantly affected by alcohol at this level. On the other hand, *a BAC of 0.08 percent is considered to be high, and people at this level are impaired mentally and physically whether or not they show it.*

Many people think that drunkenness is determined by outward signs. They have in mind individuals who stagger, slobber or put lamp shades on their heads. However there are individuals who regularly drink to relatively high BACs that do not show any of the outward signs. Even though they are able to compensate and cover up their drunkenness, they still increase their chances of being in a crash, if they drive with a BAC of 0.02 percent or higher. *As a person's BAC rises, their ability to judge and make accurate decisions in traffic become*

*more and more impaired, regardless of whether they appear to be impaired.*

## **Effects on decision-making**

Alcohol seriously impairs the ability to drive safely because the ability to IDENTIFY, PREDICT, DECIDE and EXECUTE is seriously reduced.

- **IDENTIFY:** Senses such as vision, hearing, and body position are reduced, and therefore a person's ability to detect hazards in a pattern of traffic is seriously affected. Impaired drivers tend to fix their vision on a particular object and not see others. The ability to detect persons and vehicles to the side is almost completely lost. Hearing is reduced, as is the ability to judge distances. Drivers with a high BAC may also lose their sense of body position, and with increasing impairment, they may fade across the center line, wander from lane to lane and even run off the road.
- **PREDICT:** Effective drivers predict what other drivers might do to cause them problems, and driving under the influence of alcohol, with the ability to see, hear, and feel body position impaired, makes such predictions difficult, if not impossible.
- **DECIDE:** The ability to make good decisions in critical situations is also vitally important to safe driving, and that ability is seriously affected when it is based on faulty senses, faulty judgments and poor predictions. Couple this with the false sense of confidence and lack of good judgment that alcohol provides, and you can see how very likely it is that the impaired driver will make bad decisions in critical driving situations.
- **EXECUTE:** In demonstrations using driving simulators, test subjects often turn left when they think they are turning right. They jam on the accelerator when they think they are applying the brakes. This happens even though the people being tested may be sober by outward appearances and legal definition. Even if they execute correctly, they do so much slower. Because of this reduced ability to execute, a drinking driver, traveling at 55 mph, will drive an additional 32 feet or more before he can apply the brakes. Even at lower speeds, this added two-fifths

of a second can be the difference between crashing and not crashing.

## Other factors

There are several other factors that influence a driver's ability to operate a vehicle safely when drinking. These factors help explain why people behave differently when affected by alcohol, and why some drivers show greater impairment than others with the same BAC.

- **DRIVING EXPERIENCE:** *Alcohol affects the inexperienced driver more than the experienced driver.* The poor or inexperienced driver will become a much worse driver quicker when drinking, and even small amounts of alcohol are likely to increase the number of errors dramatically.
- **DRINKING EXPERIENCE:** The same can be said of less experienced drinkers. Beginning drinkers will often show greater impairment and be less able to drive after drinking than a person who is a more experienced drinker.
- **DRIVING CONDITIONS:** Unusual weather, lighting and road conditions make driving more difficult and call for a higher level of performance, while drinking only reduces a person's ability to perform. The drinking driver will not be able to lift his performance level.
- **MENTAL STATE:** A person who is tired, angry, anxious, emotionally upset, or even elated, may already be impaired as a driver. The good driver will compensate for these conditions, but alcohol reduces the ability to do so. In fact, anger and alcohol have been found to be one of the most dangerous combinations. *Simply put, alcohol makes it much more difficult for people to control themselves.*

## Drinking and driving — Is it worth it?

If you are placed under arrest for driving under the influence, a chemical test or tests to determine your BAC may result. Under the Implied Consent law, drivers are deemed to have given their consent to such tests whenever driving on a public street or highway.

- If you REFUSE to take the required test or tests, law enforcement may obtain a warrant to require the test or tests to be administered by an approved tester.
- If you submit to the required test or tests and your BAC is 0.08 percent or more, your driver license and

driving privileges will be suspended for 90 days and you may be subject to criminal penalties.

- And while a BAC of 0.08 percent or more may result in a conviction, you may also be convicted of DWUI with a BAC of 0.05 percent and other supporting evidence.

## It's your decision

We would suggest you seriously consider planning ahead so that you do not have to drive after you have been drinking.

## Other drugs

Most of the common drugs (diet, sleeping, allergy, tranquilizers) affect at least one of the major skills you need as a driver. Drivers need to know how drugs affect their ability to Identify, Predict, Decide and Execute.

- **Diet and "stay-awake" pills**, known as "pep pills," "uppers" and "speed," give drivers a false feeling of alertness and often increase self-confidence, which may lead to excessive risk-taking. Some drivers try to drive longer by taking "stay-awake" pills. However these drugs keep drivers from realizing how tired they are and that they therefore do not have the ability to identify critical objects and make quick decisions. Attempts to stay awake with drugs can cause additional problems.
- **Sleeping pills** are intended to relax and help persons sleep. They can make thinking difficult, affect emotions and cause sleepiness. They can affect all of the driving IPDE skills for several hours.
- **Allergy pills and cold remedies**: These pills can contain a variety of antihistamines, bromides, codeine and alcohol. They can cause a person to become sleepy and impair a person's ability to think clearly.
- **Tranquilizers**: These pills are intended to help a person calm down. The drugs cause a person to become less alert and sleepy. They also make thinking difficult and affect emotions. The pills can affect alertness, attention, judgment and reactions. The effects may last for several hours.
- **Mind-altering drugs**: Marijuana, LSD, heroin and similar drugs are illegal. They are often impure and may vary in strength. These drugs often affect a person's mood, vision, reaction and ability to judge time and space. They tend to make users indifferent

to or even unaware of their surroundings. The total effects are often unpredictable. Anyone under the influence of these drugs must not attempt to drive a motor vehicle.

**Be cautious** of new medicines. Do not drive until you are certain that they will not impair your driving. You should know that Driving While Under the Influence of any controlled drug is not legal. You may be charged and convicted of DWUI.

**Ask your doctor** about what effects any drugs he prescribes might have on your driving.

**Read the label** carefully before you buy or use any over-the-counter or non-prescription drug.

## **What to do when you are stopped by law enforcement**

There are many different reasons why a police officer might stop you. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation.

- The police may want to warn you about a potentially dangerous situation.
- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- Your vehicle may match the description of one used in a criminal act.
- The officer might think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may have witnessed a crime.

If you are stopped by the police while driving, you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the police officer. Each year, many law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making the “routine” traffic stop. When you see the blue and red overhead lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm, slow down, and pull over to the right of the roadway in a safe location. Do not stop in the lane of travel, on bridges, or against guardrails.

- Put your vehicle in park.
- Do not exit your motorcycle unless asked to do so. This is for safety reasons. Drivers and passengers may be ordered to stay on the motorcycle, or told to exit. Wait for direction from the officer.
- Keep your hands on the handlebars so the officer can see them.

**Understand that each situation is unique, and the police officer must alter his or her response to fit the circumstance. Generally, however, a police officer:**

- 1. Will provide his/her name upon request.**
- 2. Will inform a person of the reason for being stopped.**
  - Inform the officer of any weapons you have and their location. Do not reach or point to the location.
  - Avoid any sudden movements.
  - Comply with the officer's request to see your driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration. Wyoming law requires you to carry these with you.
  - If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
  - If there are passengers on your motorcycle, encourage them to remain quiet, and cooperate with instructions. You, as the operator, are solely responsible for your vehicle and passengers.
  - Answer all questions truthfully.
  - The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, politely ask the officer for details.
  - Avoid becoming argumentative. Arguing will not change the officer's mind. If you contest the violation, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.
  - You have the right to politely deny a request by a police officer to search your motorcycle; however, if probable cause is present, the officer has the right to search your motorcycle without your consent.

- If you come across an emergency or maintenance vehicle with its lights activated on the side of the road, remember Wyoming law requires you to merge into the lane farthest from that working vehicle (interstate) or to reduce your speed by at least 20 mph (two lane road).
- If you are being overtaken by an emergency vehicle with its lights activated, Wyoming law requires you to pull off to the right side of the road and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

## County registration and titling locations

(T)= titling; (R)=registration; (B)=both

| County      | City        | Address              | Phone #                      |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Albany      | Laramie     | 525 Grand Ave.       | 721-2541 (T)<br>721-2502 (R) |
| Big Horn    | Basin       | 420 W. C St.         | 568-2357 (T)<br>568-2578 (R) |
| Campbell    | Gillette    | 500 S. Gillette Ave. | 682-7285 (T)<br>682-7268 (R) |
| Carbon      | Rawlins     | 415 W. Pine          | 328-2668 (T)<br>328-2633 (R) |
| Converse    | Douglas     | 107 N. 5th St.       | 358-2244 (T)<br>358-3120 (R) |
| Crook       | Sundance    | 309 Cleveland        | 283-1323 (T)<br>283-1244 (R) |
| Fremont     | Lander      | 450 N. 2nd St.       | 332-2405 (T)<br>332-1104 (R) |
| Goshen      | Torrington  | 2125 E. A St.        | 532-4051 (T)<br>532-5151 (R) |
| Hot Springs | Thermopolis | 415 Arapahoe         | 864-3515 (T)<br>864-3616 (R) |
| Johnson     | Buffalo     | 76 N. Main St.       | 684-7272 (T)<br>684-7302 (R) |
| Laramie     | Cheyenne    | 309 W. 20th          | 633-4247 (T)<br>633-4232 (R) |
| Lincoln     | Kemmerer    | 925 Sage Ave.        | 877-9006 (B)                 |
| Natrona     | Casper      | 200 N. Center        | 235-9211 (T)<br>235-9370 (R) |
| Niobrara    | Lusk        | 424 S. Elm St.       | 334-2211 (T)<br>334-2432 (R) |
| Park        | Cody        | 1002 Sheridan Ave.   | 527-8600 (T)<br>527-8630 (R) |
| Platte      | Wheatland   | 800 9th St.          | 322-2315 (T)<br>322-2092 (R) |
| Sheridan    | Sheridan    | 224 S. Main          | 674-2500 (T)<br>674-2520 (R) |
| Sublette    | Pinedale    | 21 S. Tyler          | 367-4372 (T)<br>367-4373 (R) |
| Sweetwater  | Green River | 80 W. Flaming Gorge  | 872-3737 (T)<br>872-3720 (R) |
| Teton       | Jackson     | 200 S. Willow St.    | 733-4433 (T)<br>733-4770 (R) |
| Uinta       | Evanston    | 225 9th St.          | 783-0306 (T)<br>783-0333 (R) |
| Washakie    | Worland     | 1001 Big Horn Ave.   | 347-3131 (T)<br>347-2031 (R) |
| Weston      | Newcastle   | 1 W. Main            | 746-4744 (T)<br>746-2852 (R) |

# Learn, fine-tune riding skills

## *Motorcycle Safety Education Classes*

The Wyoming Department of Transportation offers both Basic Rider Course (BRC) and Advanced Basic Rider Course (BRC2) motorcycle safety education courses at several locations across Wyoming from May through September at a nominal fee.

Passing the Wyoming Novice Rider Course will waive the required skills and written testing when applying for your Wyoming motorcycle license.

### **Basic Rider Course**

The Basic Rider Course (BRC) was developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The course is designed for those who have little or no riding experience, although most experienced riders will also benefit from the course. It contains ap-





proximately 20 hours of instruction, both in the classroom and on-cycle. A mandatory e-Course is completed within 30 days of the class. The e-Course will take about 3 hours and must be completed prior to class. On the first day of your class, you'll have an opportunity to familiarize yourself with the motorcycle with a low risk, hands on exercise. The class will continue through Sunday afternoon. Motorcycles will be provided to use during the course. Successful completion of this course will allow a waiver of all testing requirements for a Class M endorsement provided completion card is presented to a Wyoming drivers services within two years of course date.

### **Advanced Basic Rider Course (BRC2)**

The BRC2 Rider Course developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. It is designed for those who have three months or more motorcycling experience or for those who have completed the Basic Rider Course (BRC). Unless you have advanced motorcycling skills, it is strongly recommended that you take the BRC prior to taking this course. It contains approximately 5-6 hours of on-cycle instruction. Short discussions of classroom topics will be held between selected riding exercises. Applications and information on these two courses are available at your local driver examination station.



If you have any questions regarding these courses, contact the WYDOT Highway Safety Program in Cheyenne toll free at 888-570-9904 or 307-777-4874.

# RULES OF THE ROAD

## Speed

### Legal speed limits (All unless otherwise posted)

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Interstate Highways..... | 80 mph, 75 mph |
| Secondary Highways.....  | 70 mph         |
| Residential Areas.....   | 30 mph         |
| Business Areas.....      | 30 mph         |
| School Zones.....        | 20 mph         |

## Adjust speed

### Adjust speed for road conditions

The only contact your motorcycle or car has with the road is through its tires, and each only has an area of rubber about the size of a person's hand on the surface of the road. The grip provided by the tires, then, is very dependent on the condition of the road itself. It is imperative, therefore, that motorists drive according to road conditions.

#### On curves

Adjust speed BEFORE entering a curve. Going too fast can break the grip that tires have on the road.

#### At intersections

Trees, bushes, or buildings at intersections can block the view of vehicles coming from the side. Therefore approach a “blind” intersection at no more than 15 mph.

#### On slippery roads

Slippery roads reduce your tires' grip, so drive slower than you would on a dry road. When driving on:

Wet road      Reduce speed by at least 5-10 mph.

Packed snow      Reduce speed by at least half.

Ice      Reduce speed to a crawl. You may have to slow even more if vehicles are ahead.

### Adjust speed for traffic conditions

Crashes tend to happen when one driver is going faster or slower than other vehicles on the road:

- If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to pass other vehicles. You have more chances of having a crash if you pass many vehicles.

- Going slower than traffic or stopping suddenly is as dangerous as speeding. The risk of rear-end collisions is added to the risk of vehicles passing you.
- You should be able to identify slower-moving vehicles. Adjust your speed gradually. Slowing suddenly is a major cause of traffic crashes.
- Remember that you are sharing the road with bicyclists, and that they have as much legal right to be on a public roadway as you. All bicycles should be identified as slow-moving traffic and your speed and driving should be adjusted to accommodate them.

## **Adjust speed for light conditions**

### **Darkness**

Never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see ahead with your headlights. Your car lights will only let you see clearly about 250 feet. If you then drive faster than 55 mph on a dark road, you are really “driving blind” because you won't be able to stop within the 250 feet ahead of you that is lit well enough to see.

### **Rain, fog or snow**

In a very heavy rain, snowstorm, or thick fog, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you can't see any further than that, you cannot drive safely at any speed. Whenever you cannot see well enough, pull off the road and wait until it clears.

## **Motorcycle equipment**

### **Required equipment**

Every motorcycle is required to have:

- At least one headlight, one taillight, one brake light and one red rear reflector;
- A mirror mounted on the left side of the vehicle as to reflect the view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle; and
- A muffler and a horn in good working order.

Turn signals, front and rear, are optional.

## Basic rules and regulations

Wyoming requires adherence to the following rules and regulations for operating a motorcycle on the road:

- A person operating a motorcycle shall ride only upon an attached permanent and regular seat, and the motorcycle shall not carry any other person unless the motorcycle is designed to carry more than one person. In that event a passenger may ride upon the permanent and regular seat if it is designed for two people or upon another seat firmly attached to the motorcycle at the rear or side of the operator.
- A person shall ride on a motorcycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.
- No person shall operate a motorcycle while carrying any article which prevents him from keeping both hands on the handlebars or obstructs his vision or interferes with the operation of the motorcycle.
- All motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane of traffic.
- The operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass any vehicle in the same lane occupied by the other vehicle unless it is another motorcycle.
- The operator of a motorcycle overtaking another motorcycle in the same lane shall first match the speed of the other motorcycle before passing.
- No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.
- Motorcycles shall not be operated three or more abreast in a single lane of traffic.
- No person riding a motorcycle shall attach himself or the motorcycle to any other moving vehicle on a roadway. This does not prohibit attaching a motorcycle trailer or motorcycle semi-trailer designed for such an attachment.
- Any motorcycle carrying a passenger, other than in a sidecar or enclosed cab, shall be equipped with footrests for the passenger.
- No person shall operate any motorcycle with handlebars so positioned that his hands, when upon the grips, are above shoulder height when he is sitting astride the vehicle seat with the vehicle in an upright position.
- No minor shall operate or ride on a motorcycle unless he is wearing protective headgear, of a type that is approved, securely fastened on his head. The

standard for protective headgear shall meet or exceed the "290.1-1971 standard" of the American National Standards Institute.

- Any person operating a motorcycle or pedestrian vehicle (designed for use by a disabled person) shall have the head lamps of the motorcycle or pedestrian vehicle on at all times, including daylight hours.

## Before you go

What you do before you start a trip goes a long way toward determining whether you'll get there safely. Before any trip, a safe rider makes a point to:

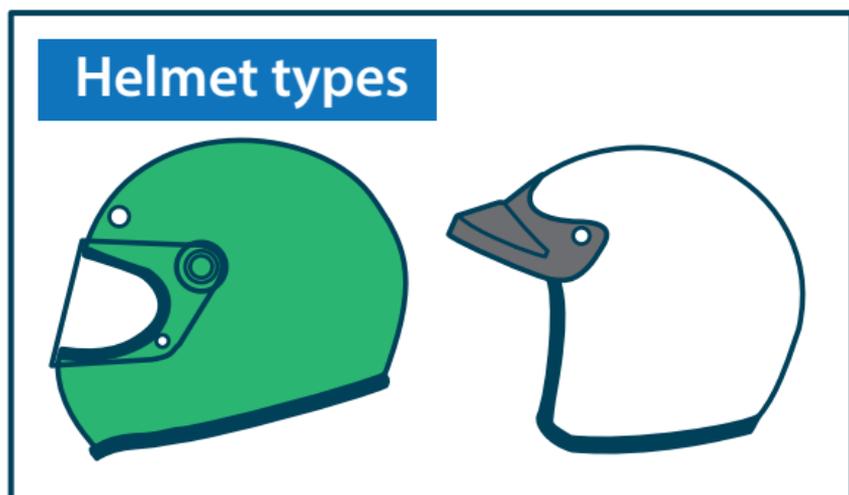
- Wear the right gear;
- Become familiar with the motorcycle;
- Check the motorcycle equipment; and
- Be a responsible rider.

## Wear the right gear

Your gear is "right" if it protects you. In any crash, you have a far better chance of avoiding serious injury if you wear: an approved helmet, face or eye protection and protective clothing.

### Helmet use

Crashes are common, particularly among beginning riders, and one out of every five result in head or neck injuries. Head injuries are just as severe as neck injuries and far more common. Analyses also show head and neck injuries account for a majority of serious and fatal injuries to motorcyclists and that, with few exceptions, such injuries are reduced by the proper wearing of an approved helmet.



## **Some helmet-related facts**

An approved helmet lets you see as far to the sides as necessary. A study of more than 900 motorcycle crashes, where 40 percent of the riders wore helmets, found no case in which a helmet kept a rider from spotting danger.

Most crashes happen on short trips, less than five miles long and just a few minutes after starting.

Most riders are riding slower than 30 mph when a crash occurs. At these speeds, helmets can cut both the number and the severity of head injuries by half.

No matter what the speed, helmeted riders are three times more likely to survive head injuries than those not wearing helmets at the time of the crash.

## **Helmet selection**

There are two primary types of helmets, providing two different levels of coverage: three-quarter and full face. Whichever you choose, you can maximize protection by making sure it:

- Meets U.S. Department of Transportation and state standards (Helmets with a label from the Snell Memorial Foundation give you an added assurance of quality.);
- Fits snugly all the way around; and
- Has no obvious defects such as cracks, loose padding or frayed straps.

Whatever helmet you choose, keep it securely fastened on your head when you ride. Otherwise it's likely to fly off before it gets a chance to protect you.

## **Eye and face protection**

A plastic, shatter resistant face shield can help protect your whole face in a crash. It also protects you from wind, dust, dirt, rain, insects and pebbles thrown up from cars ahead. These problems are distracting and can be painful. If you have to deal with them, you can't devote your full attention to the road.

Goggles protect your eyes, though they won't protect the rest of your face like a face shield does. A windshield is not a substitute for a face shield or goggles. Most windshields do not protect your eyes from the wind. Neither will eyeglasses or sunglasses. Glasses won't keep your eyes from watering, and they might blow off when you

turn your head while riding.

To be effective, eye or face shield protection must:

- Be free of scratches;
- Be resistant to penetration;
- Give a clear view to either side;
- Fasten securely, so it does not blow off;
- Permit air to pass through to reduce fogging; and
- Allow room for eyeglasses or sunglasses, if needed.

Tinted eye protection should not be worn at night or any other time when light is limited.

## **Clothing**

The right clothing protects you in a collision. It also provides comfort, as well as protection from heat, cold, debris and hot and moving parts of the motorcycle.

### **Jacket and pants**

Jacket and pants should cover arms and legs completely. They should fit snugly enough to keep from flapping in the wind, yet loosely enough to move freely. Leather offers the most protection. Sturdy synthetic material provides a lot of protection as well. Wear a jacket even in warm weather to prevent dehydration. Many are designed to protect without getting you overheated, even on summer days.

### **Boots or shoes**

Boots or shoes should be high and sturdy enough to cover your ankles and give them support. Soles should be made of hard, durable slip-resistant material. Keep heels short so they do not catch on rough surfaces. Tuck laces so they won't catch on your motorcycle.

### **Gloves**

Gloves allow a better grip and help protect your hands in a crash. Your gloves should be made of leather or similar durable material.

In cold or wet weather, your clothes should keep you warm and dry as well. You cannot control a motorcycle well if you are numb. Riding for long periods in cold weather can cause severe chill and fatigue. A winter jacket should resist wind and fit snugly at the neck, wrists and waist. Good-quality rain suits designed for motorcycle riding resist tearing apart or ballooning up at high speeds.

## Know your motorcycle

There are plenty of things on the highway that can cause you trouble. Your motorcycle should not be one of them. To make sure that your motorcycle won't let you down:

- Read owner's manual first;
- Start with the right motorcycle for you;
- Be familiar with the motorcycle controls;
- Check the motorcycle before every ride;
- Keep it in safe riding condition between rides; and
- Avoid add-ons and modifications that make your motorcycle harder to handle.

## The right motorcycle for you

First, make sure your motorcycle is right for you. It should "fit" you. Your feet should reach the ground while you are seated on the motorcycle. At minimum, your street-legal motorcycle should have a headlight, taillight and brake light, front and rear brakes, turn signals, a horn and two mirrors.

## Borrowing and lending

Borrowers and lenders of motorcycles beware. Crashes are fairly common among beginning riders, especially in the first months of riding.

Riding an unfamiliar motorcycle adds to the problem. If you borrow a motorcycle, get familiar with it in a controlled area. And if you lend your motorcycle to friends, make sure they are licensed and know how to ride before allowing them out into traffic.

No matter how experienced you may be, ride extra carefully on any motorcycle that's unfamiliar to you. More than half of all crashes occur on motorcycles ridden by the operator for less than six months.

## Get familiar with the controls

Make sure you are completely familiar with the motorcycle before you take it out on the street. Be sure to review the owner's manual. This is particularly important if you are riding a borrowed motorcycle. If you are going to use an unfamiliar motorcycle:

- Make all of the checks you would on your own motorcycle;
- Find out where everything is, particularly the turn signals, horn, headlight switch, fuel-control valve,

and engine cut-off switch (Find and operate these items without having to look for them.);

- Know the gear pattern, and work the throttle, clutch, and brakes a few times before you start riding (All controls react a little differently); and
- Ride very cautiously and be aware of surroundings (Accelerate gently, take turns more slowly, and leave extra room for stopping).

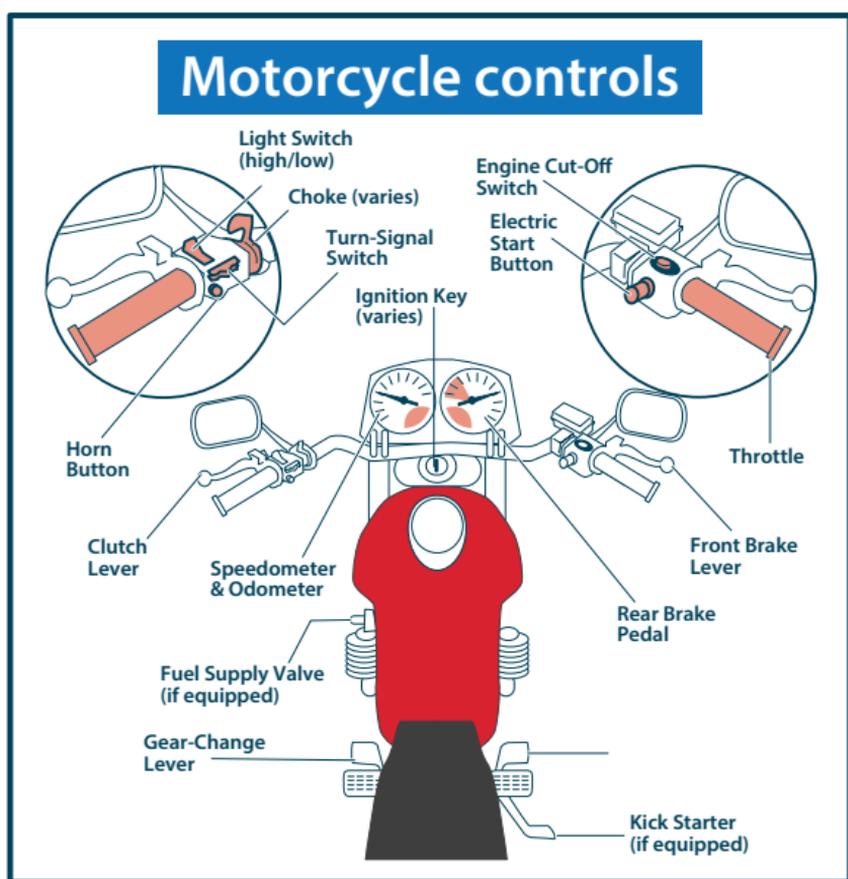
## Check your motorcycle

A motorcycle needs more frequent attention than a car. A minor technical failure in a car seldom leads to anything more than an inconvenience for the driver.

If something's wrong with the motorcycle, you'll want to find out about it before you get in traffic. Make a complete check of your motorcycle before every ride.

Before starting your trip, check the tires' air pressure and general wear and tread, oil and fluid levels. At a minimum, check hydraulic fluids and coolants weekly. Look under the motorcycle for signs of an oil or gas leak, check your headlight and taillight, and test your switch to make sure both high and low beams are working.

Also check both right and left turn signals, and make sure all lights are working properly. Try both brake controls, making sure each one turns on the brake light.



Once you are on the motorcycle but before starting out, check:

- That clutch and throttle are working smoothly (The throttle should snap back when you let go. The clutch should feel tight and smooth.);
- That mirrors are clean and adjusted properly (It's difficult to ride with one hand while you try to adjust a mirror. Adjust each mirror so you can see the lane behind and as much as possible of the lane next to you. When properly adjusted, a mirror may show the edge of your arm or shoulder, but it's the road behind and to the side that's most important.);
- Your front and rear brakes one at a time, making sure each feels firm and holds the motorcycle when it is fully applied; and
- That your horn works.

In addition you should make weekly checks of wheels, cables, fasteners and fluids. Refer to your owner's manual for recommendations.

## Basic vehicle control

### Body position

To control a motorcycle well be aware of your posture, seat position, hands, knees and feet.

Posture: Sit so you can use your arms to steer the motorcycle rather than to hold yourself up.

Seat position: Sit far enough forward so that your arms are slightly bent when you hold the handle grips. Bending your arms permits you to press on the handlebars without having to stretch.

Hands: Hold the handle grips firmly to keep your grip over rough surfaces. Start with your right wrist flat. This will help you keep from accidentally using too much



throttle. Also, adjust the handlebars so your hands are even with or below your elbows. This permits you to use the proper muscles for precision steering.

**Knees:** Keep your knees against the gas tank to help you keep your balance as the motorcycle turns.

**Feet:** Keep your feet firmly on the foot pegs to maintain balance. Don't drag your feet. If your foot catches on something, you can be injured and it could affect your control of the motorcycle. Keep your feet near the controls so you can get to them quickly, if needed. Also, don't let your toes point downward; they may get caught between the road and the foot pegs.

## **Shifting gears**

There is more to shifting gears than simply getting the motorcycle to pick up speed smoothly. Learning to use the gears when downshifting, turning or starting on hills is important for safe motorcycle operation. Shift down through the gears with the clutch as you slow or stop.

Remain in first gear while you are stopped so that you can move out quickly if you need to.

Make certain you are riding slowly enough when you shift into a lower gear. If not, the motorcycle will lurch, and the rear wheel may skid.

When riding downhill or shifting into first gear, you may need to use the brakes to slow enough before downshifting safely. Work towards a smooth, even clutch release, especially when downshifting.

It is best to change gears before entering a turn. However, sometimes shifting while in the turn is necessary. If so, remember to do so smoothly; a sudden change in power to the rear wheel can cause a skid.

## **Braking**

Your motorcycle has two brakes, one each for the front and rear wheel. Use both of them at the same time. The front brake is more powerful and can provide at least three-quarters of your total stopping power. The front brake is safe to use if you use it properly. Remember:

- To use both brakes every time you slow or stop (Using both brakes for even "normal" stops will permit you to develop the proper habit or skill of using both brakes properly in an emergency. Squeeze the front

brake and press down on the rear. Grabbing at the front brake or jamming down on the rear can cause the brakes to lock, resulting in control problems.);

- If you know the technique, using both brakes in a turn is possible, although it should be done very carefully (When leaning the motorcycle, some of the traction is used for cornering, and then less traction is available for stopping. A skid can occur if you apply too much brake. Also, using the front brake incorrectly on a slippery surface may be hazardous. Use caution and squeeze the brake lever, never grab.);
- Some motorcycles have integrated braking systems that link the front and rear brakes together by applying the rear brake pedal (Consult the owner's manual for a detailed explanation on the operation and effective use of these systems.).

## Turning

Riders often try to take curves or turns too fast. When they can't hold the turn, they end up crossing into another lane of traffic or going off the road. Or, they overreact and brake too hard, causing a skid and loss of control. Approach turns and curves with caution. Use four steps for better control: SLOW, LOOK, LEAN and ROLL.

**SLOW:** Reduce speed before the turn by closing the throttle and, if necessary, applying both brakes.

**LOOK:** Look through the turn to where you want to go. Turn just your head, not your shoulders, and keep your eyes level with the horizon.

**LEAN:** To turn, the motorcycle must lean. To lean the motorcycle, press on the hand grip in the direction of the turn. Press left, lean left, go left. Press right, lean right, go right. Higher speeds and/or tighter turns require the motorcycle to lean more.

**ROLL:** Roll on the throttle through the turn to stabilize suspension. Maintain steady speed or accelerate gradually through the turn. This will help keep the motorcycle stable.

In normal turns, the rider and the motorcycle should lean together at the same angle. In slow tight turns, counterbalance by leaning the motorcycle only and keeping your body upright.

# Turning

## Normal turning



## Slow turning



## Keeping your distance

The best protection you can have is distance — a “cushion of space” — all around your motorcycle. If someone else makes a mistake, distance gives you time to react and space to maneuver.

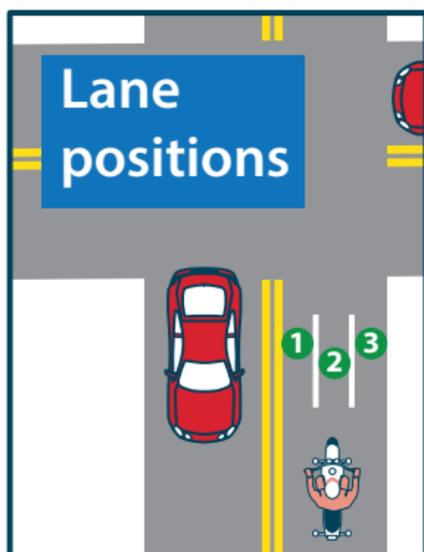
## Maintain best lane position

In some ways the size of the motorcycle can work to your advantage. Each traffic lane gives a motorcycle three paths of travel, as indicated in the illustration.

Your lane position should:

- Increase your ability to see and be seen;
- Avoid others' blind spots;
- Avoid surface hazards;
- Protect your lane from other drivers;
- Communicate your intentions;
- Avoid wind blast from other vehicles; and
- Provide an escape route.

No portion of the lane need be avoided, including the center. Position



***SLOW  
DOWN***  
***in work zones***

**Ride &  
Drive  
Safe.** 

**Save  
Lives**

yourself in the portion of the lane where you are most likely to be seen and you can maintain a space cushion around you. Change position as traffic situations change. Ride in path 2 or 3 if vehicles and other potential problems are on your left only. Remain in path 1 or 2 if hazards are on your right only. If vehicles are being operated on both sides of you, the center of the lane, path 2, is usually your best option.

The oily strip in the center portion that collects drippings from cars is usually no more than two feet wide. Unless the road is wet, the average center strip permits adequate traction to ride on safely. You can operate to the left or right of the grease strip and still be within the center portion of the traffic lane. Avoid riding on big buildups of oil and grease usually found at busy intersections or toll booths.

## Following and being followed

### Following another vehicle

“Following too closely” is a major factor in crashes involving motorcyclists. In traffic, motorcycles need as much distance to stop as cars.



Normally, a minimum of two seconds distance should be maintained behind the vehicle ahead. To gauge your following distance:

- Pick out a marker, such as a pavement marking or lamppost, on or near the road ahead;
- When the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead passes the marker, count off the seconds: “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two;” and

- If you reach the marker before you reach “two,” you are following too closely.

A two-second following distance leaves a minimum amount of space to stop or swerve if the driver ahead stops suddenly. It also permits a better view of potholes and other hazards in the road.

A larger cushion of space is needed if your motorcycle will take longer than normal to stop. If the pavement is slippery, if you cannot see through the vehicle ahead, or if traffic is heavy and someone may squeeze in front of you, open up a three second or greater following distance.

Keep well behind the vehicle ahead even when you are stopped. This will make it easier to get out of the way if someone bears down on you from behind. It will also give you a cushion of space if the vehicle ahead starts to back up for some reason.

When behind a car, ride where the driver can see you in the rear view mirror. Riding in the center portion of the lane should put your image in the middle of the rear view mirror, where a driver is most likely to see you.

Riding at the far side of a lane may permit a driver to see you in a side view mirror. But remember that most drivers don't look at their side view mirrors nearly as often as they check the rear view mirror. If the traffic situation allows, the center portion of the lane is usually the best place for you to be seen by the drivers ahead and to prevent lane sharing by others.

### **Being followed**

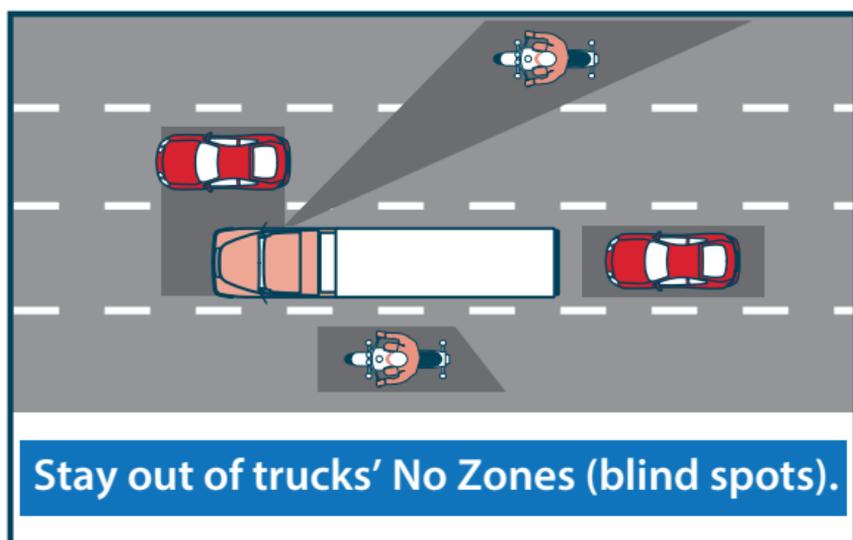
Speeding up to lose someone following too closely only ends up with someone tailgating you at a higher speed. A better way to handle tailgaters is to get them in front of you. When someone is following too closely, change lanes and let them pass. If you can't do this, slow down and open up extra space ahead of you to allow room for both you and the tailgater to stop. This will also encourage them to pass. If they don't pass, you will have given yourself and the tailgater more time and space to react in case an emergency does develop ahead.

### **Avoid the No-Zone**

One of the most serious misjudgments made about trucks concerns the truck driver's field of vision. Many

believe that because a truck driver sits high, he can see further ahead and can react sooner to developments on the road. True, the truck driver has a better view over the top of any vehicles ahead of him, but heavy vehicles have serious blind spots that other vehicles do not.

Heavy vehicles have deep blind spots directly behind them. Avoid tailgating in this No-Zone area. The truck driver cannot see you in this position and your own view of the traffic flow is severely reduced. Following too closely not only greatly increases your chances of a rear-end collision but also creates a hazardous situation if debris such as ice, rocks and tire-recapping material ends up in your path or strikes you or your motorcycle through no fault of the truck driver. Heavy vehicles also have very large blind spots on both the right and the left side. When you drive in these blind spots (No-Zones) for any length of time, you cannot be seen by the truck driver. If the truck driver needs to change lanes quickly for any reason, a serious or fatal crash could occur.



The “right-turn squeeze” happens when a motorcycle finds itself in the blind spot located on the right side of a heavy vehicle, which is turning right. Motorcyclists who are aware of No-Zone areas when sharing the road with heavy vehicles are better prepared to avoid potential crashes. For all of the reasons listed above, it is best to avoid loitering in any No-Zone area.

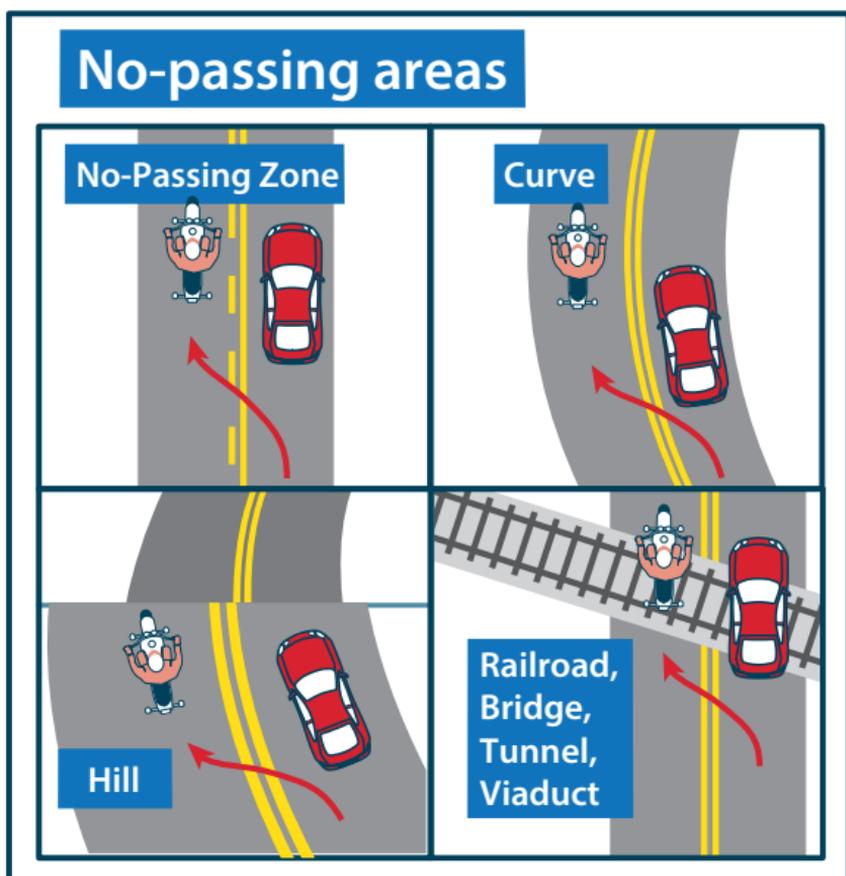
## **Passing and being passed**

Passing and being passed by another vehicle is not much different than in a car. However, visibility is more critical. Be sure other drivers see you, and that you see potential hazards.

## Passing

Decide if it is safe to pass.

- Do not pass if signs or pavement markings prohibit passing. If you see any vehicles, pedestrians, bridges, curves, hills, intersections, or railroad crossings just ahead, do not pass; WAIT.
- Do not try to pass more than one vehicle at a time on a two-lane road.
- Do not follow another vehicle that is passing a car in front of you.
- It is not legal to exceed the speed limit when passing.
- DO NOT pass a school bus with flashing red lights, unless there is a physical barrier or separate roadway between your motorcycle and the bus.

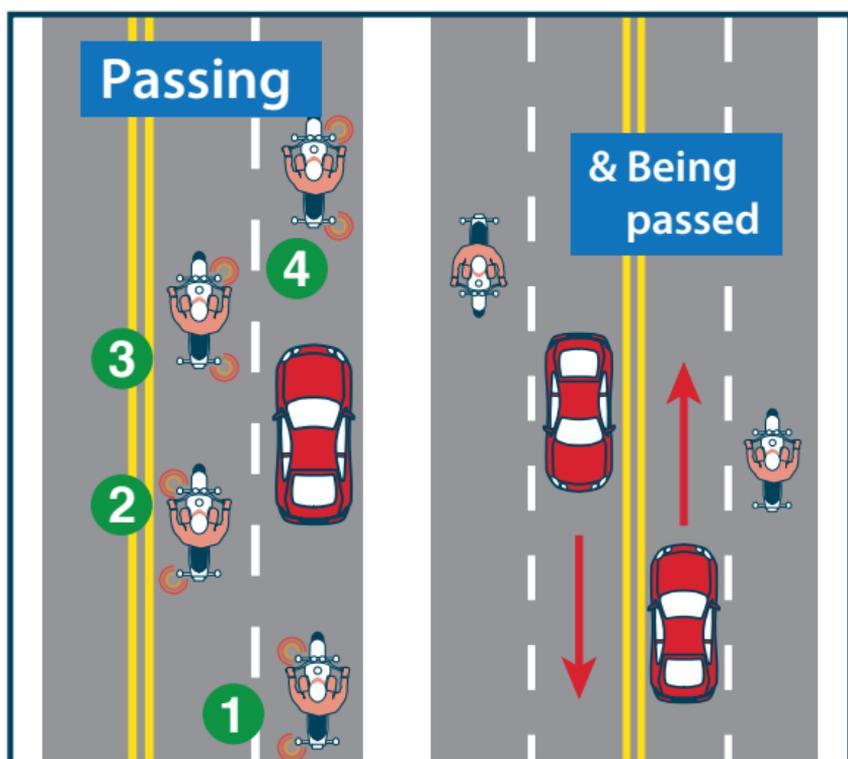


## How to pass

- Before passing, ride in the left portion of the lane at a safe following distance to increase your line of sight and make yourself more visible. Signal and check for oncoming traffic. Use your mirrors and turn your head to look for traffic behind.
- When safe, move into the left lane and accelerate. Select a lane position that doesn't crowd the car you are passing and provides space to avoid hazards in your lane.

- Ride through the blind spot as quickly as possible.
- Signal again, and complete mirror and head checks before returning to your original lane and then cancel your signal.

Remember, passes must be completed within posted speed limits and only where permitted. Know your signs and road markings!



### Being passed

When you are being passed from behind or by an on-coming vehicle, stay in the center portion of your lane. Riding any closer to them could put you in a hazardous situation. Avoid being hit by:

- The other vehicle (A slight mistake by you or the passing driver could cause a side-swipe crash.);
  - Extended mirrors (Some drivers forget that their mirrors hang out farther than their fenders.);
  - Objects thrown from windows (Even if the driver knows you're there, a passenger may not and might toss something on you or the road ahead of you.);
- And
- Blasts of wind from larger vehicles (They can affect your control. You have more room for error if you are in the middle portion when hit by this blast than if you are on either side of the lane.).

Do not move into the portion of the lane farthest from the passing vehicle. It might invite the other driver to cut back into your lane too early.

## Passing heavy vehicles

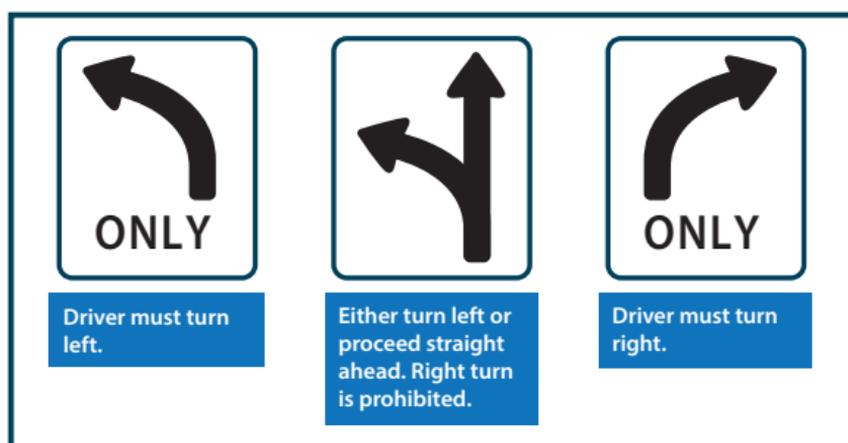
When passing a tractor-trailer, take into account the vehicle's total length, particularly double trailers. Some of these vehicles can be as much as 100 feet long. Make sure you have adequate space.

When a motorcyclist cuts in too soon after passing a heavy vehicle, then abruptly slows down, truck drivers are forced to compensate with little time or room to spare. Because it takes longer to pass a large vehicle, you should maintain a consistent speed when passing and be sure you can see both headlights and the entire cab of the truck behind you before pulling back into your lane.

When approaching a construction zone, a motorcyclist may be tempted to pass a heavy vehicle at a high speed and then cut in front of the truck to avoid being trapped behind it. However that can often result in not enough braking distance between the truck and the motorcycle, and the truck may unavoidably "rear end" the bike, causing a serious or even fatal crash.

## Traffic signs, signals and road markings

The different shapes and colors of signs are significant and mean different things. If fading light, fog, rain, snow or darkness makes them difficult to read, their shapes can still tell informed drivers generally what to look for or what to do. For instance, diamond-shaped signs are meant to warn you of such things as road hazards, while rectangular signs give regulatory information about lawful speeds and directions.



*The different shapes of signs are explained and shown in full color on the inside and outside of the back cover.* Be sure and familiarize yourself with them. Pavement markings also provide the driver with important information about the proper position of vehicles on the roadway.

## **Overhead signs**

Overhead lane signs tell you what direction you must go. When the word “ONLY” is used, you must go in the direction the arrow points; there is no option. Arrows painted on the roadway and arrows on the overhead signs have the same meaning.

## **Use of lanes**

On a two-lane roadway (one lane going in each direction) you are required to drive on the right side and to yield the left half of the roadway to oncoming traffic.

On multi-lane roads, drive in the lane that has the smoothest flow of traffic. It helps you keep a safe space cushion and saves gas. When there are three or more lanes going in one direction, the middle lane or lanes are usually the smoothest. The left lane is for drivers who want to go faster, pass or turn left. Slower drivers and those turning right use the right lane.

If the road has two lanes going in one direction, the right lane usually has the smoothest flow of traffic. On roads that have special left turn lanes, the left lane may have the smoothest flow of traffic.

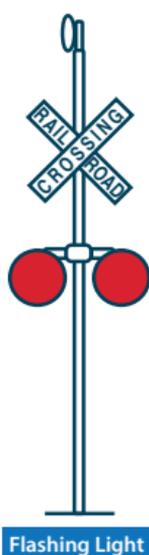
## Railroad crossings

Where public highways and railways intersect, one or more of the following warning devices mark the crossing for your safety.

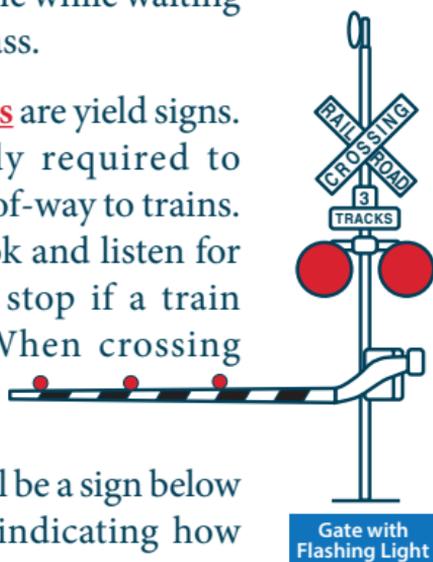


**Advance warning signs** advise you to slow down, look and listen for the train, and be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.

**Pavement markings** consist of an R-X-R followed by a stop line closer to the tracks. They may be painted on the paved approach to a crossing. Stay behind the stop line while waiting for a train to pass.



**Crossbuck signs** are yield signs. You are legally required to yield the right-of-way to trains. Slow down, look and listen for the train approaches. When crossing more than one set of tracks, there will be a sign below the crossbuck indicating how many there are.



**Flashing red light signals:** When the lights are flashing, STOP! A train is approaching. You are legally required to yield the right-of-way to the train. If there is more than one track, make sure all tracks are clear before crossing.

**Flashing-light signals with gates:** Stop when the lights begin to flash and before the area where the gate will lower across your road lane. Remain stopped until the gates go up and the lights have stopped flashing. Proceed when it is safe.

## PREVENTING RAILROAD CROSSING CRASHES IS UP TO YOU!

## Pavement markings

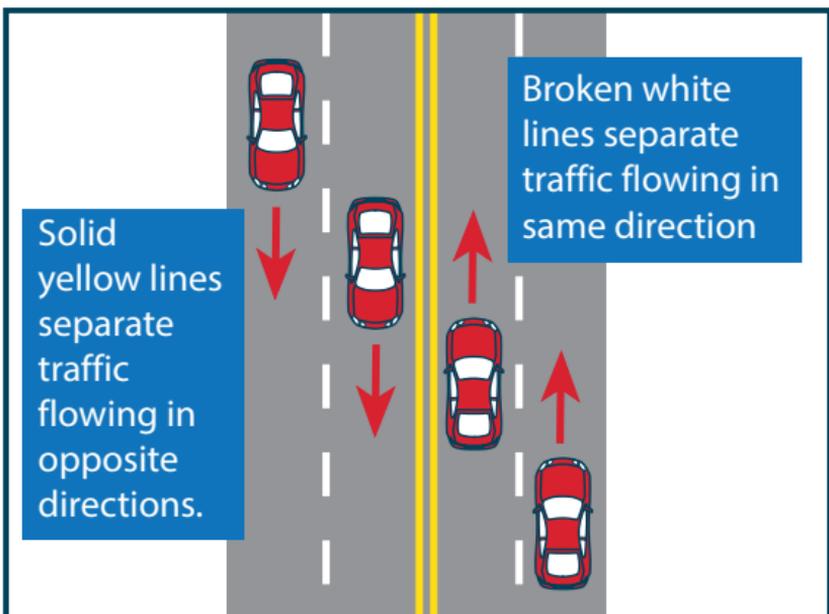
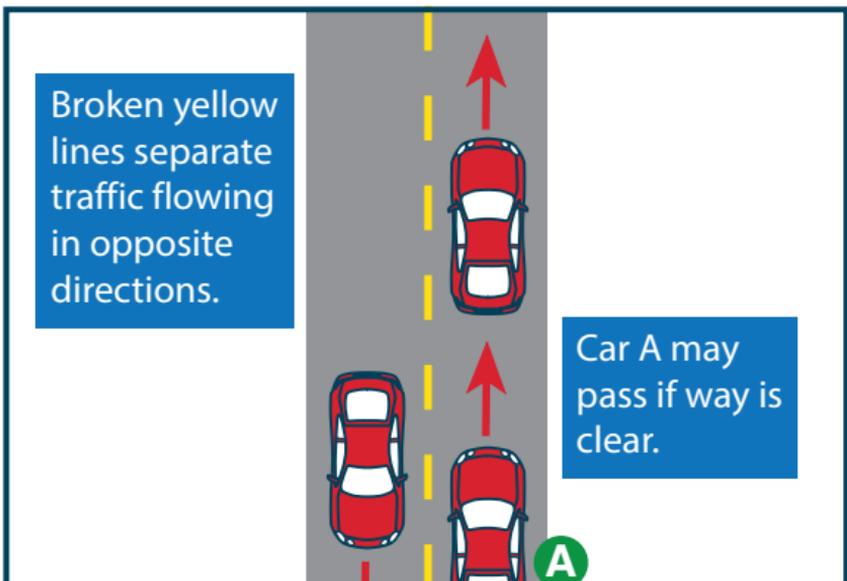
**White lines** separate traffic going the same direction.

**Yellow lines** separate traffic flowing in opposite directions.

**Broken lines** indicate passing or lane changing is permitted if the way is clear.

**Solid white lines** indicate that passing or lane changing is hazardous.

**Solid yellow lines** indicate no passing or lane changing — unless making a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.



## Traffic crashes

### If you're involved in a crash

If you are involved in a crash you must:

- Stop your vehicle at or near the crash scene and stay there until the police have arrived and questioned everyone involved;
- Give aid to any injured persons and send for an ambulance (DO NOT MOVE AN INJURED PERSON unless there is danger of another crash.);
- Warn passing traffic (Have someone warn approaching traffic to prevent further damage.);
- Get the names and addresses of all witnesses as well as persons involved in the crash;
- Record the other driver's name and address, driver license number, make of vehicle, insurance company name, model and year of vehicle, damage to the vehicle, and license plate number; and
- Contact the police if there is an injury, death or property damage amounting to \$1,000 or more. The law requires you to give the police information on the crash at the time of the crash. The police will fill out and submit an accident report to the Accident Records Section of the Wyoming Department of Transportation. You must submit a separate written report of the crash to the Accident Records Section of the Wyoming Department of Transportation within 10 days and attach an estimate of repairs or a statement of the total loss from an established repair garage or an insurance adjuster employed by an insurer licensed to transact insurance in this state.

### Damaging unattended vehicles

If you damage an unattended vehicle or other property and you cannot locate the owner, leave the following information on a piece of paper where the owner can find it:

- Your name, address and telephone number;
- Driver license number;
- License plate number;
- Date and time of crash; and
- Damage to the vehicle.

Then you must also contact the nearest law enforcement agency.

# Sharing the road safely

## Know your responsibilities

### Understand they're not 'accidents'

“Accident” implies an unforeseen event that occurs without anyone being at fault or negligence. But most traffic altercations or crashes are not accidents because most often they could have been avoided had all involved operated their vehicles correctly and responsibly.

Consider a situation where someone decides to try to squeeze through an intersection on a yellow light turning red. Your light turns green. You pull into the intersection without checking for possible latecomers. That is all it takes for the two of you to tangle. It was the driver’s responsibility to stop. And it was your responsibility to look before pulling out. Neither of you held up your end of the deal.

### Be proactive

As a rider you can’t be sure that other operators will see you or yield the right of way. To lessen your chances of a crash occurring:

- Be visible (Wear proper clothing, use your headlight, ride in the best lane position to see and be seen.);
- Communicate your intentions (Use the proper signals, brake light and lane position.);
- Maintain an adequate space cushion while following, being followed, lane sharing, passing and being passed;
- Scan your path of travel 12 seconds ahead;
- Identify and separate multiple hazards; and
- Be prepared to act (Remain alert, and know how to carry out proper crash-avoidance skills.).

Blame doesn’t matter when someone is injured in a crash. There is rarely a single cause of any crash. The ability to ride aware, make critical decisions and carry them out separates responsible riders from all the rest. Remember, it's up to you to keep from being the cause of, or an unprepared participant in, any crash.

## Lane sharing

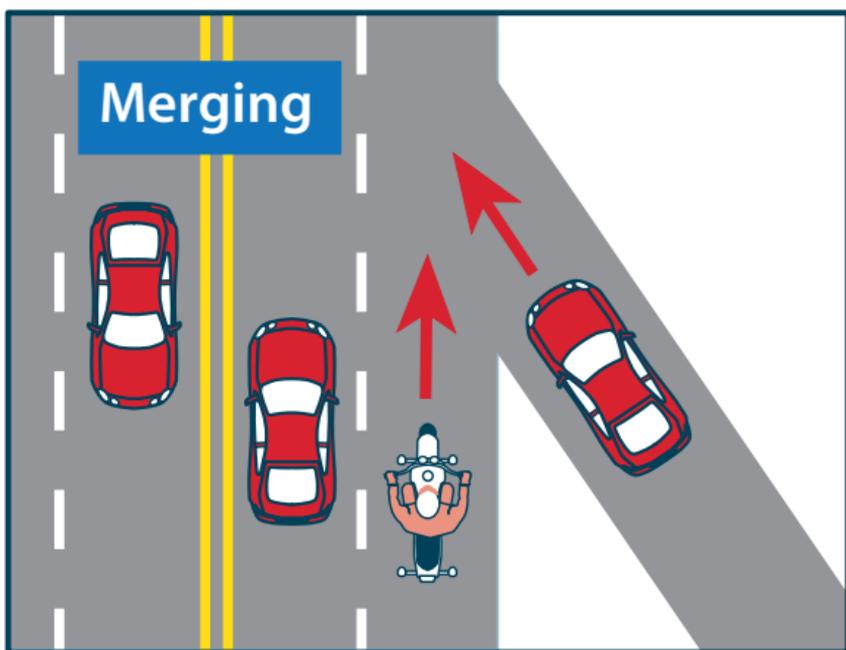
Cars and motorcycles need a full lane to operate safely. Lane sharing is usually prohibited. Riding between rows of stopped or moving cars in the same lane can leave you vulnerable to the unexpected. A hand could

come out of a window, a door could open, a car could turn suddenly. Discourage lane sharing by others; keep a center-portion position whenever drivers might be tempted to squeeze by you. Drivers are most tempted to squeeze you:

- In heavy, bumper-to-bumper traffic;
- While passing you;
- When you are preparing to turn at an intersection; and
- When you are getting in an exit lane or leaving a highway.

## Merging cars

Drivers on an entrance ramp may not see you on the highway. Give them plenty of room. Change to another lane if one is open. If there is no room for a lane change, adjust speed to open up space for the merging driver.



## Cars alongside

Avoiding riding next to cars or trucks in adjacent lanes. You could be in one of their blind spots, and they could switch into your lane without warning. Close-by vehicles also block your escape if you come upon danger in your own lane. Speed up or drop back to find a place clear of traffic on both sides.

## SIPDE

Good, experienced riders remain aware of what is going on around them. They improve their riding strategy by using "SIPDE," an abbreviation for a five-step process used to make appropriate judgments and to apply them

correctly in different traffic situations. SIPDE stands for scan, identify, predict, decide and execute.

## **Scan**

Constantly search ahead, to the sides and behind to avoid potential hazards before they arise. How assertively you search and how much time and space you have can eliminate or reduce harm. Focus even more on finding potential escape routes in or around intersections, shopping areas, school and construction zones.

Search for:

- Oncoming traffic that may turn left in front of you;
- Traffic coming from the left and right;
- Traffic approaching from behind; and
- Hazardous road conditions.

Be especially alert in areas with limited visibility. Visually “busy” surroundings could hide you and your motorcycle from others.

## **Identify**

Locate hazards and potential conflicts:

- Vehicles and other motorcycles that could move into your path and increase the likelihood of a crash;
- Pedestrians and animals (They are unpredictable and make short, quick moves.); and
- Stationary objects such as potholes, guard rails, bridges, roadway signs, hedges, and trees that will not move into your path but may still influence your riding strategy.

## **Predict**

Consider speed, distance, and direction of hazards to anticipate how they may affect you. Cars moving into your path are more critical than those moving away or remaining stationary. Predict where a collision may occur. Completing this “what if ...?” phrase to estimate results of contacting or attempting to avoid a hazard depends on your knowledge and experience.

## **Decide**

Determine what you may need to do based on your prediction. The mental process of determining your course of action depends on how well you searched. The result is your action and knowing which strategy is best for the situation. You want to eliminate or reduce the potential hazard. You must decide when, where and how to take

action. Your constant decision-making tasks must stay sharp to cope with constantly changing traffic situations.

The decisions you make can be grouped by the number of hazards encountered: single, double or multiple hazards.

## **Execute**

Carry out your decision. For more space and to minimize harm from any hazard:

- Communicate your presence with lights and/or horn;
- Adjust your speed by accelerating, stopping or slowing; and
- Adjust your position and/or direction.

Apply the old adage “one step at a time” to handle two or more hazards. Adjust speed to permit two hazards to separate. Then deal with them one at a time as single hazards. Decision making becomes more complex with three or more hazards. Weigh consequences of each and give equal distance to the hazards.

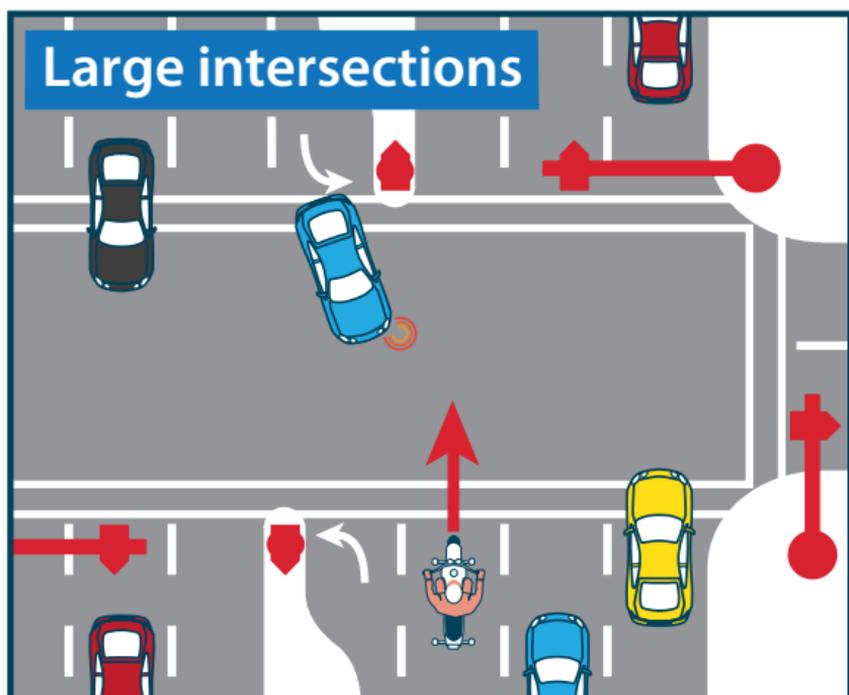
In high-risk areas, such as intersections, shopping areas, school and construction zones, cover the clutch and both brakes to reduce the time you need to react.

## **Intersections**

The greatest potential for conflict between you and other traffic is at intersections. An intersection can be in the middle of an urban area, at a driveway on a residential street or any other place where traffic paths cross. Over one-half of motorcycle/car crashes are caused by drivers entering a rider’s right-of-way. Cars that turn left in front of you, including cars turning left from the lane to your right, and cars on side streets that pull into your lane, are the biggest dangers. Your use of “SIPDE,” described above, at intersections is critical.

There are no guarantees that others see you, and never count on “eye contact” as a sign that a driver will yield. Too often, a driver looks right at a motorcyclist and still fails to “see” him. The only eyes that you can count on are your own. If a car can enter your path, assume that it will. Good riders are always “looking for trouble” in order to stay out of it.

Increase your chances of being seen at intersections. Ride with your headlight on in a lane position that provides the best view of oncoming traffic. Provide a space cushion around the motorcycle that permits you to take evasive action.



As you approach the intersection, select a lane position to increase your visibility to the driver. Cover the clutch and both brakes to reduce reaction time. Reduce your speed. After entering the intersection, move away from vehicles preparing to turn. Do not change speed or position radically. The driver might think that you are preparing to turn.

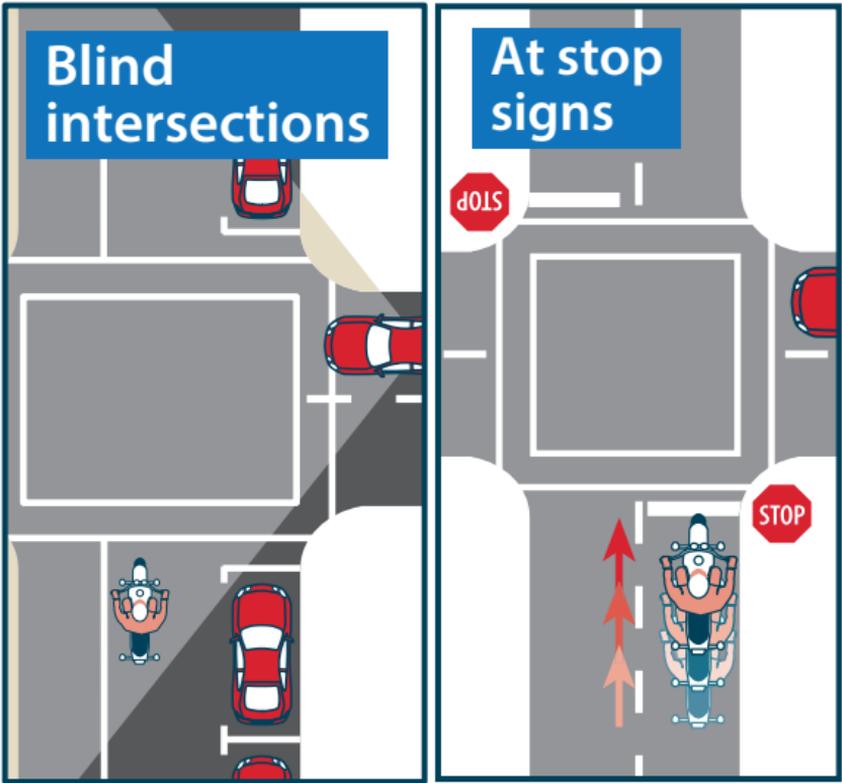


## Blind intersections

If you approach a blind intersection, move to the portion of the lane that will bring you into another driver's field of vision at the earliest possible moment. In this picture, the rider has moved to the left portion of the lane, away from the parked car, so the driver on the cross street can see him as soon as possible. Remember to see as much as possible and remain visible to others while protecting your space.

If you have a stop sign or stop line, stop there first. Then edge forward and stop again, just short of where the cross-traffic lane meets your lane. From that position, lean your body forward and look around buildings, parked cars or bushes to see if anything is coming. Just

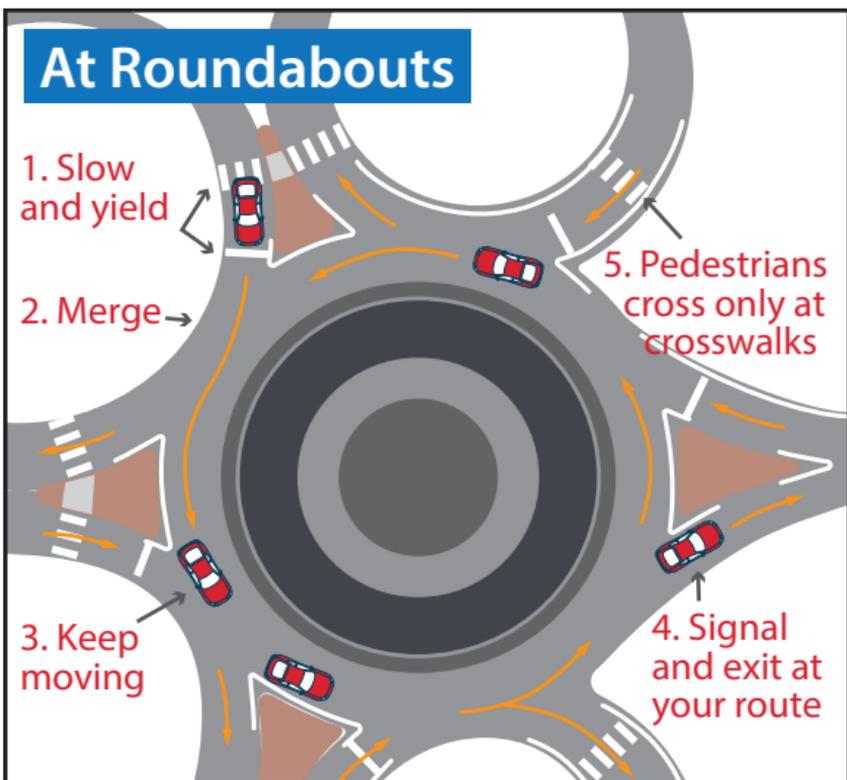
make sure your front wheel stays out of the cross lane of travel while you're looking.



## Roundabouts

Roundabouts are a safer, more cost-effective way to build some intersections. By keeping traffic moving and requiring fewer stops and starts than conventional intersections, roundabouts reduce crashes, delays and congestion, resulting in drops in fuel consumption and emissions.

Traffic moves at slow speeds in a counterclockwise



direction and is constantly moving except when yielding to traffic in the roundabout and pedestrians in the crosswalks.

### **To navigate a roundabout:**

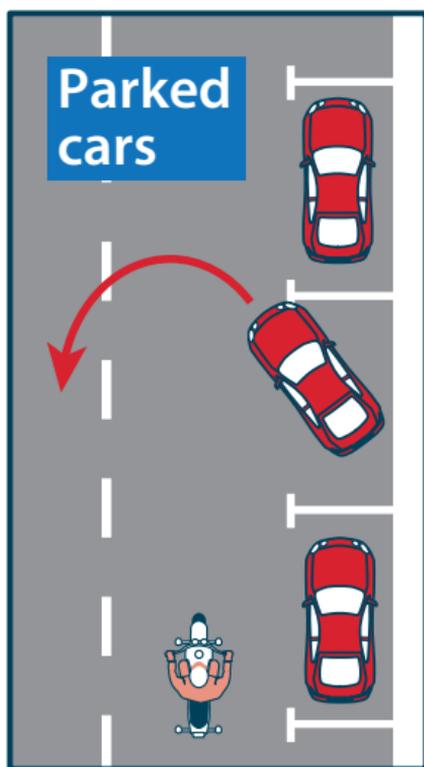
1. Slow down as you approach the roundabout and yield to pedestrians and traffic already in the roundabout;
2. Look to the left, wait for a gap in traffic and merge into the roundabout;
3. Once in the roundabout, keep moving, don't stop;
4. Proceed to your exit, use your turn signal to indicate you are leaving the roundabout and yield to pedestrians as you leave the roundabout;
5. Pedestrians should cross only in crosswalks.

## **Passing parked cars**

When passing parked cars, stay to the left of your lane, so you can avoid problems caused by doors opening, drivers getting out or people stepping from between cars. If oncoming traffic is present, it is usually best to remain in the center-lane position to maximize your space cushion.

A bigger problem can occur if the driver pulls away from the curb without checking for traffic behind. Even if he does look, he may fail to see you. In either event, the driver might cut into your path. Slow down or change lanes to make room for someone cutting in.

Cars making a sudden U-turn are the most dangerous. They may cut you off entirely, blocking the whole roadway and leaving you with no place to go. Since you can't tell what a driver will do, slow down and get the driver's attention. Sound your horn, and continue with caution.

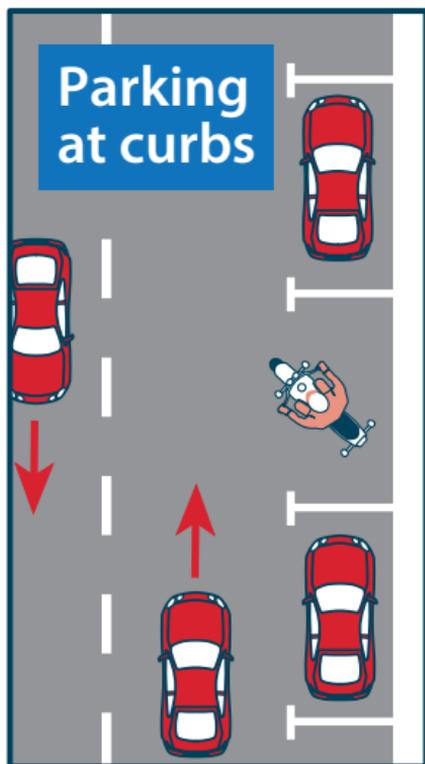


## Parking at the roadside

Park at a 90-degree angle to the curb with your rear wheel touching the curb.

### Increase your noticeability

In crashes with motorcyclists, drivers often say they never saw the motorcycle. From ahead or behind, a motorcycle's outline is much smaller than a car's. Also, it's hard to see something you are not looking for, and most drivers are not looking for motorcycles. More likely, they are looking through the skinny, two-wheeled silhouette in search of cars that may pose a problem to them.



Even if a driver does see you coming, you aren't necessarily safe. Smaller vehicles appear farther away and seem to be traveling slower than they actually are. It is common for drivers to pull out in front of motorcyclists, thinking they have plenty of time. Too often, they are wrong.

However, you can do many things to be more conspicuous, to make it easier for others to recognize you and your cycle.

### Clothing

Most crashes occur in broad daylight. Wear bright colored clothing to increase your chances of being seen. Remember, your body is half of the visible surface area of the rider/motorcycle unit.

Bright orange, red, yellow or green jackets or vests are your best bets for being seen. Your helmet can do more than protect you in a crash. Brightly colored helmets can also help others see you.

Any bright color is better than drab or dark colors. Reflective, bright colored clothing (helmet and jacket or vest) is best. Reflective material on a vest and on the

sides of the helmet will help drivers coming toward you, from behind you or from the side to spot you.

## Headlight

The best way to help others see your motorcycle is to keep the headlight on at all times, and, in fact, motorcycles sold in the U.S. since 1978 automatically have the headlights on when running. Studies show that, during the day, a motorcycle with its light on is twice as likely to be noticed. Use of the high beam during the day increases the likelihood that oncoming drivers will see you. Use your low beam at night and in cloudy weather.

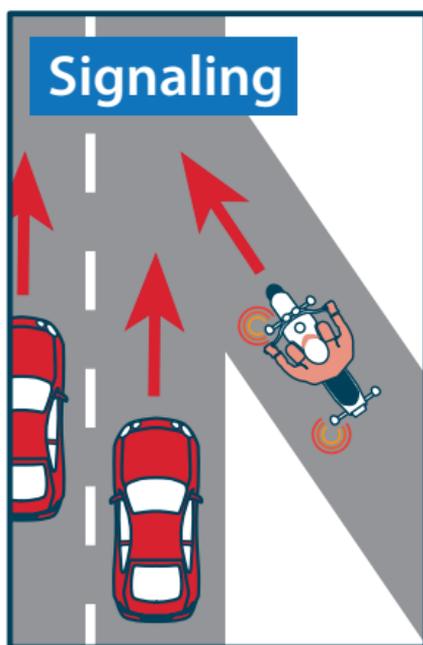
## Signals

The signals on a motorcycle are similar to those on a car. They tell others what you plan to do. However, due to a rider's vulnerability, signals are even more important on a motorcycle.

Use them whenever you plan to change lanes or turn. Use them even when you think no one else is around to see them. It's the car you don't see that's the biggest threat. Your signal lights make you easier to spot. That's why it's a good idea to use your turn signals even when what you plan to do is obvious.

When you enter onto a freeway, drivers approaching from behind are more likely to see your signal blinking and make room for you.

Turning your signal light on before each turn reduces confusion and frustration for the traffic around you. Once you turn, make sure your signal is off or a driver may pull directly into your path, thinking you plan to turn again. Use your signals at every turn so drivers can react accordingly. Don't make them guess what you intend to do.



## Brake light

Your motorcycle's brake light is usually not as noticeable as the brake lights on a car, particularly when your tail-light (it goes on when the headlight does) is on. If the situation will permit, help others notice you by flashing your brake light before you slow down.

It is especially important to flash your brake light before:

- You slow more quickly than others might expect (turning off a high-speed highway); or
- You slow where others may not expect it, such as in the middle of a block or at an alley.

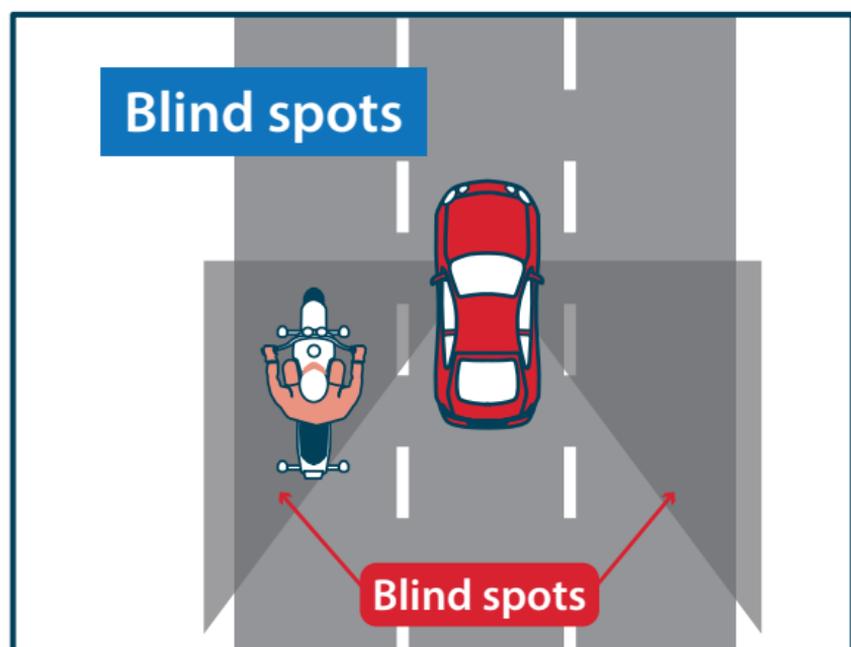
If you are being followed closely, it's a good idea to flash your brake light before you slow. The tailgater may be watching you and not see something ahead that will make you slow down. This will hopefully discourage them from tailgating and warn them of hazards ahead they may not see.

## Using your mirrors

While it's most important to keep track of what's happening ahead, you can't afford to ignore situations behind. Traffic conditions change quickly. Knowing what's going on behind is prerequisite for making a safe decision about how to handle trouble ahead.

Frequent mirror checks should be part of your normal scanning routine. Make a special point of using your mirrors:

- When you are stopped at an intersection (Watch cars coming up from behind. If the driver isn't paying



attention, he could be on top of you before he sees you.);

- Before you change lanes (Make sure no one is about to pass you.); and
- Before you slow down (The driver behind may not expect you to slow, or may be unsure about where you will slow. For example, you signal a turn, and the driver thinks you plan to turn at a distant intersection, rather than at a nearer driveway.).

Some motorcycles have rounded (convex) mirrors. These provide a wider view of the road behind than do flat mirrors. They also make cars seem farther away than they really are. If you are not used to convex mirrors, get familiar with them. While you are stopped, pick out a parked car in your mirror. Form a mental image of how far away it is. Then, turn around and look at it to see how close you came. Practice with them until you become a good judge of distance. Even then, allow extra distance before you change lanes.

## Head checks

Checking your mirrors is not enough. Motorcycles have “blind spots” like cars. Before you change lanes, turn your head, and look to the side for other vehicles.

On a road with several lanes, check the far lane and the one next to you. A driver in the distant lane may head for the same space you plan to take. Frequent head checks should be your normal scanning routine. Only by knowing what is happening all around you, are you fully prepared to deal with it.

## Horn

Be ready to use your horn to get someone’s attention quickly. It is a good idea to give a quick beep before passing anyone who may move into your lane. Here are some situations:

- A driver in the lane next to you is driving too closely to the vehicle ahead and may want to pass;
- A parked car has someone in the driver’s seat; or
- Someone is in the street, riding a bicycle or walking.

In an emergency, press the horn button loud and long. Be ready to stop or swerve away from the danger. Keep in mind that a motorcycle’s horn isn’t as loud as a car’s. Therefore, use it, but don’t rely on it. Other strategies may be appropriate along with the horn.

## Crash avoidance

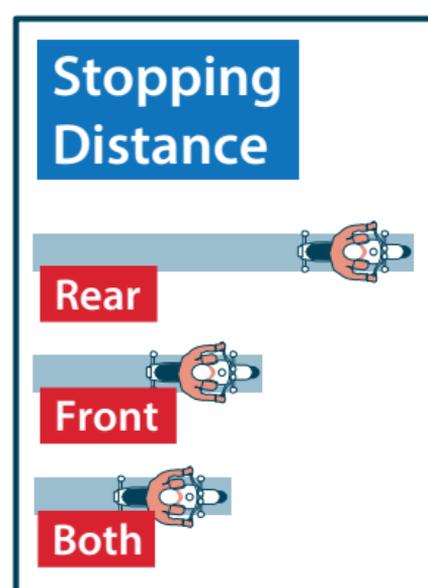
No matter how careful you are, there will be times when you find yourself in a tight spot. Your chances of getting out safely depend on your ability to react quickly and properly. Often, a crash occurs because a rider is not prepared or skilled in crash-avoidance maneuvers.

Know when and how to stop or swerve, two skills critical to avoiding a crash. It is not always desirable or possible to stop quickly to avoid an obstacle. Riders must also be able to swerve around an obstacle. Determining the skill necessary for the situation is important as well. Studies show that most crash-involved riders:

- Under brake the front tire and over brake the rear;
- Did not separate braking from swerving or did not choose swerving when it was appropriate.

### Quick stops

To stop quickly, apply both brakes at the same time. Don't be shy about using the front brake, but don't "grab" it either. Squeeze the brake lever firmly and progressively. If the front wheel locks, release the front brake immediately and then reapply it firmly. At the same time, press down on the rear brake. If you accidentally lock the rear brake on a good traction surface, keep it locked until you have completely stopped. Even with a locked rear wheel, you can control the motorcycle on a straightaway if it is upright and going in a straight line.



Always use both brakes at the same time to stop. The front brake can provide 70% or more of the potential stopping power.

If you must stop quickly while turning or riding a curve, the best technique is to straighten the bike upright first and then brake. However it may not always be possible to straighten the motorcycle and then stop.

If you must brake while leaning, apply light brakes and reduce the throttle. As you slow, you can reduce your

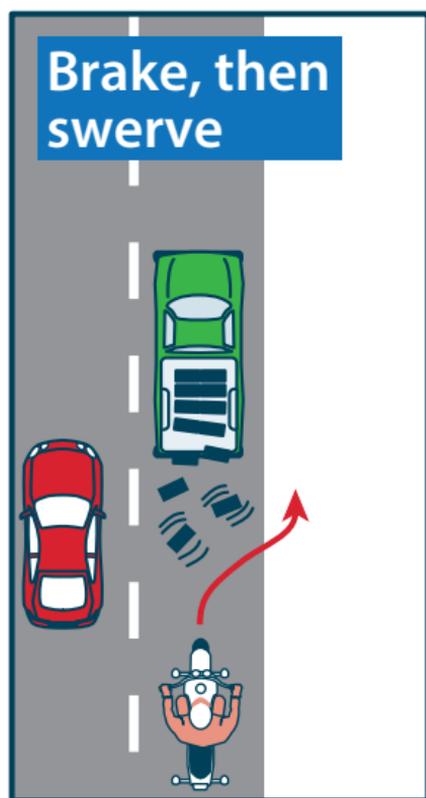
lean angle and apply more brake pressure until the motorcycle is straight and maximum brake pressure is possible. You should “straighten” the handlebars in the last few feet of stopping, the motorcycle should then be straight up and in balance.

## Swerving or turning quickly

Sometimes you may not have enough room to stop. An object might appear suddenly in your path, or a car ahead might stop suddenly. The only way to avoid a crash may be to turn quickly or swerve around it.

A swerve is any sudden change in direction. It can be two quick turns, or a rapid shift to the side. Apply a small amount of hand pressure to the hand grip located on the side of your intended direction of escape. This will cause the motorcycle to lean quickly. The sharper the turn(s), the more the motorcycle must lean.

Keep your body upright and allow the motorcycle to lean in the direction of the turn while keeping your knees against the tank and your feet solidly on the pegs. Let the motorcycle move underneath you. Make your escape route the target of your vision. Press on the opposite hand grip once you clear the obstacle to return you to your original direction of travel. To swerve to the left, press the



left hand grip, then press the right to recover. To swerve to the right, press right, then left.

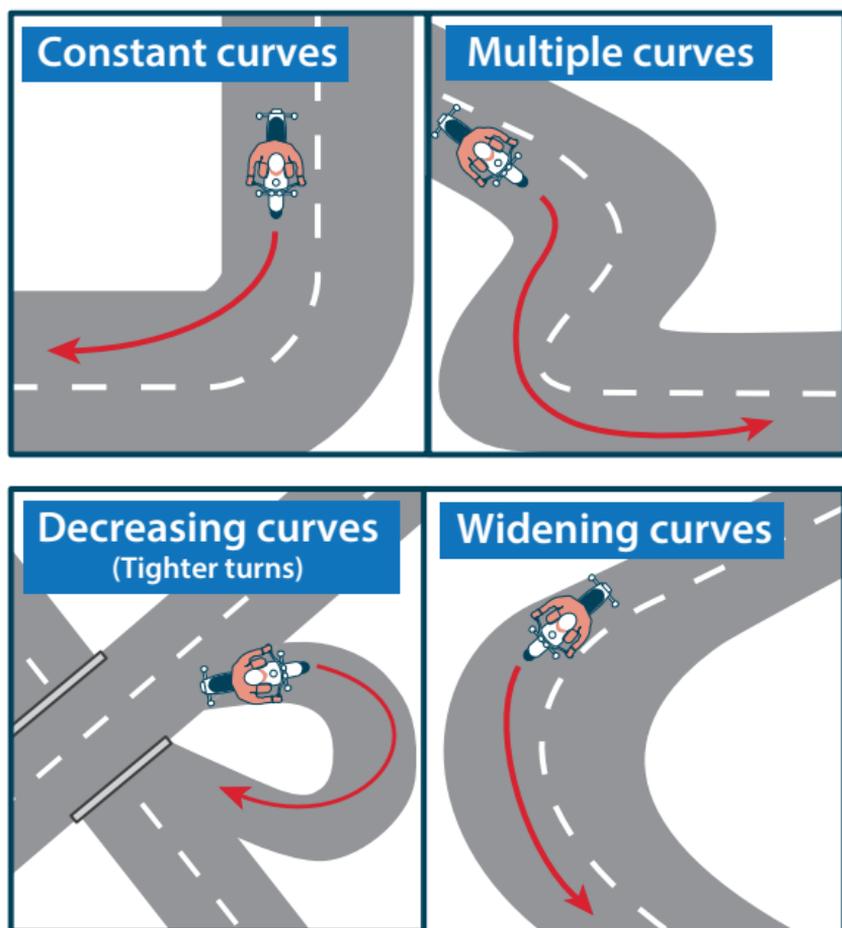
IF BRAKING IS REQUIRED, SEPARATE IT FROM SWERVING. Brake before or after, never while swerving.

## Cornering

A primary cause of single-vehicle crashes is motorcyclists running wide in a curve or turn and colliding with the roadway or a fixed object.

Every curve is different. Be alert to whether a curve remains constant, gradually widens, gets tighter or involves multiple turns. Ride within your skill level and posted speed limits.

Your best path may not always follow the curve of the road. Change lane position depending on traffic, road conditions and curve of the road.



If no traffic is present, start at the outside of a curve to increase your line of sight and the effective radius of the turn. As you turn, move toward the inside of the curve, and as you pass the center, move to the outside to exit.

Another alternative is to move to the center of your lane before entering a curve and stay there until you exit.

This permits you to spot approaching traffic as soon as possible. You can also adjust for traffic “crowding” the center line or debris blocking part of your lane.

## **Hazardous situations**

### **Riding at night**

At night it is harder for you to see and be seen. Picking your headlight or taillight out of the car lights around you is not easy for other drivers. To compensate, you should:

- Reduce your speed (Ride even slower than you would during the day, particularly on roads you don't know well. This will increase your chances of avoiding a hazard.);
- Increase your distance (Distances are harder to judge at night than during the day. Your eyes rely upon shadows and light contrasts to determine how far away an object is and how fast it is coming. These contrasts are missing or distorted under artificial lights at night. Open up a three-second following distance or more, and allow more distance to pass and be passed.);
- Use the car ahead (The headlights of the car ahead can give you a better view of the road than even your high beam can, and taillights bouncing up and down can alert you to bumps or rough pavement.);
- Use your high beam (Get all the light you can. Use your high beam whenever you are not following or meeting a car. Be visible, wear reflective materials when riding at night.); and
- Be flexible about lane position (Change to whatever portion of the lane is best able to help you see, be seen, and keep an adequate space cushion.).

### **Dangerous surfaces**

Your chance of falling or being involved in a crash increases whenever you ride across uneven surfaces or obstacles, slippery surfaces, railroad tracks or grooves and gratings.

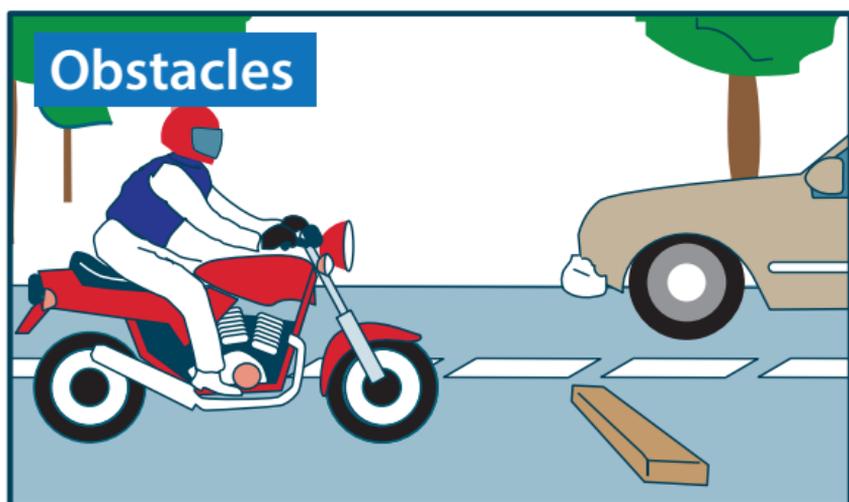
### **Uneven surfaces and obstacles**

Watch for uneven surfaces such as bumps, broken pavement, potholes or small pieces of highway trash.

Try to avoid obstacles by slowing or going around them. If you must go over the obstacle, first, determine if it

is possible. Approach it at as close to a 90-degree angle as possible. Look where you want to go to control your path of travel. If you have to ride over the obstacle, you should:

- Slow down as much as possible before contact;
- Be sure the motorcycle is straight;
- Rise slightly off the seat with your weight on the foot pegs to absorb the shock with your knees and elbows and avoid being thrown off the motorcycle; and
- Just before contact, roll on the throttle slightly to



lighten the front end.

If you ride over an object on the street, pull off the road and check your tires and rims for damage before riding any farther.

### **Slippery surfaces**

Motorcycles handle better when ridden on surfaces that permit good traction. Surfaces that provide poor traction include:

- Wet pavement, particularly just after it starts to rain and before surface oil washes to the side of the road;
- Gravel roads or where sand and gravel collect;
- Mud, snow, and ice; and
- Lane markings, steel plates and manhole covers, especially when wet.

To ride safely on slippery surfaces:

- Reduce speed (Slow down before you get to a slippery surface to lessen your chances of skidding. Your motorcycle needs more distance to stop. And, it is particularly important to reduce speed before entering wet curves.);
- Avoid sudden moves (Any sudden change in speed or direction can cause a skid. Be as smooth as possible

when you speed up, shift gears, turn or brake.);

- Use both brakes (The front brake is still effective, even on a slippery surface. Squeeze the brake lever gradually to avoid locking the front wheel. Remember, gentle pressure on the rear brake.);
- Watch the center of a lane which can be hazardous when wet (When it starts to rain, ride in the tire tracks left by cars. Often the left tire track will be the best position, depending on traffic and other road conditions as well.);
- Watch for oil spots when you put your foot down to stop or park (You may slip and fall.);
- Watch for dirt and gravel that can collect along the sides of the road, especially on curves and ramps leading to and from highways (Be aware of what's on the edge of the road, particularly when making sharp turns and getting on or off freeways at high speeds.);
- Be aware that rain dries and snow melts faster on some sections of a road than on others (Patches of ice tend to crop up in low or shaded areas and on bridges and overpasses. Wet surfaces or wet leaves are just as slippery. Ride on the least slippery portion of the lane and reduce speed.).

Cautious riders avoid roads covered with ice or snow. If you can't avoid them, keep your motorcycle straight up and proceed as slowly as possible. If you encounter a large surface so slippery that you must coast or travel at a walking pace, consider letting your feet skim along the surface. If the motorcycle starts to fall, you can catch yourself. Keep off the brakes. If possible, squeeze the clutch and coast. But attempting this maneuver at anything other than the slowest of speeds can be hazardous.

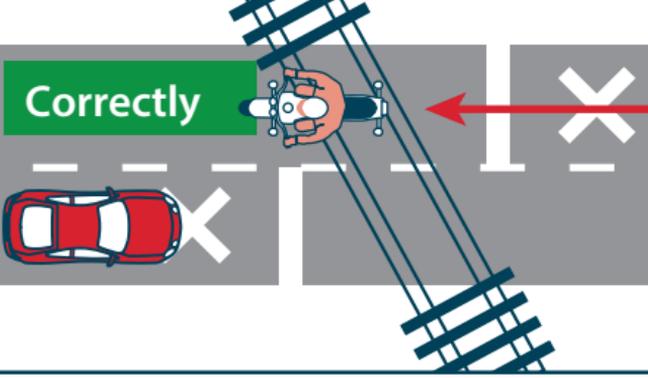
### **Railroad & trolley tracks & pavement seams**

Usually it is safer to ride straight within your lane to cross tracks. Turning to take tracks head-on (at a 90-degree angle) can be more dangerous, because that path may carry you into another lane of traffic.

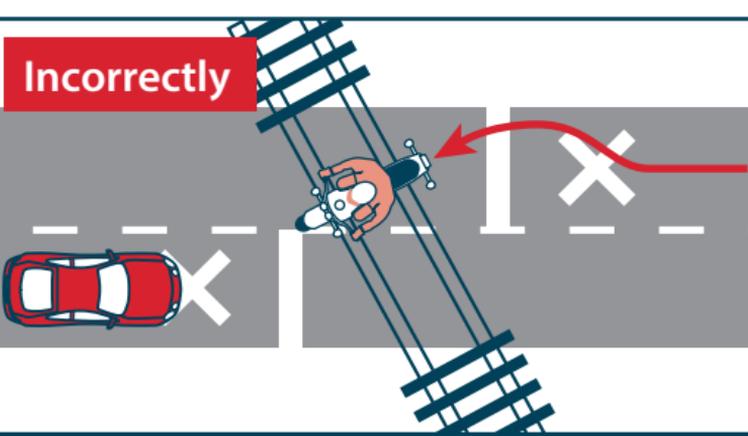
For track and road seams that run parallel to your course, move far enough away from tracks, ruts or pavement seams to cross at an angle of at least 45 degrees. Then, make a quick, sharp turn. Edging across could catch your tires and throw you off balance.

## Crossing railroad tracks

Correctly

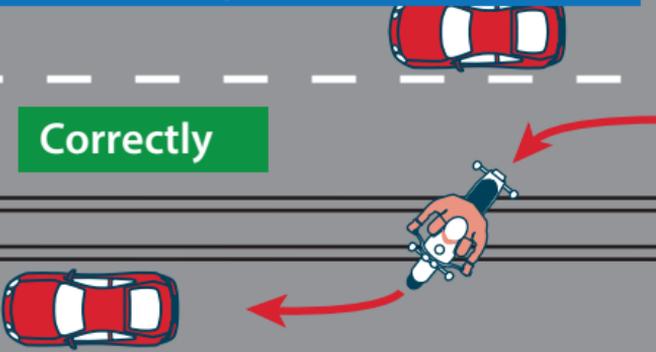


Incorrectly

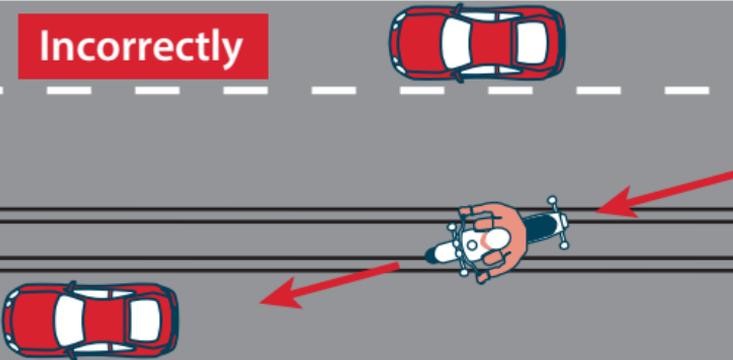


## Crossing parallel tracks

Correctly

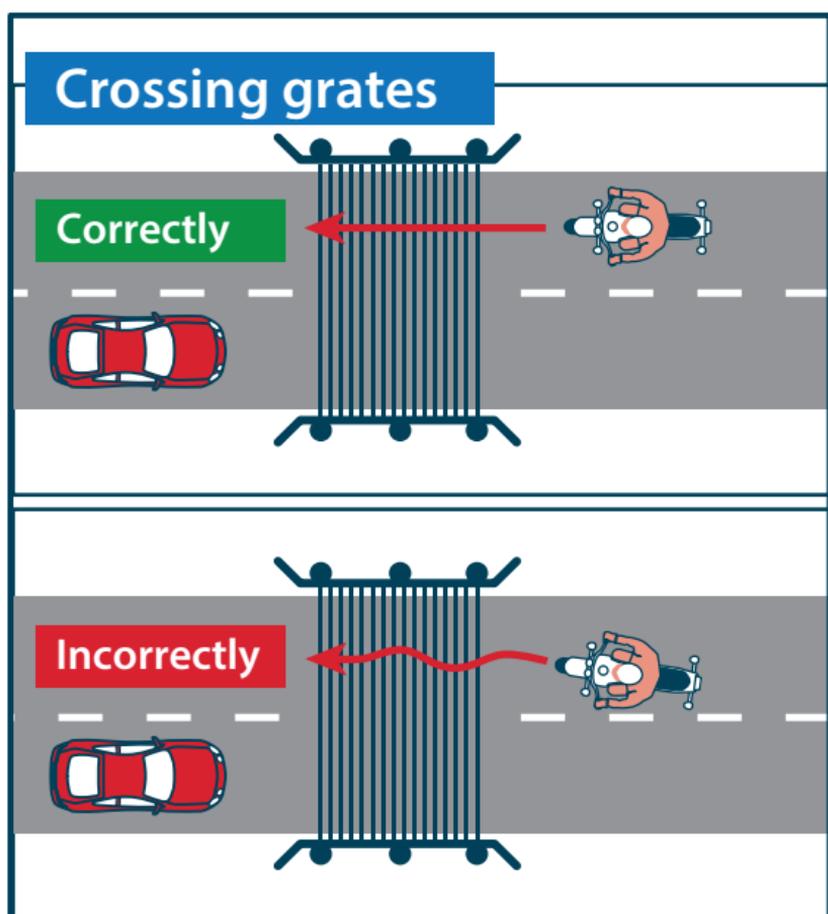


Incorrectly



## Grooves and gratings

Riding over rain grooves or bridge gratings may cause a motorcycle to weave. The uneasy, wandering feeling is generally not hazardous. Relax, maintain a steady speed and ride straight across. Crossing at an angle forces riders to zigzag to stay in the lane. The zigzag is far more hazardous than the wandering feeling.



## Mechanical problems/guidelines

You can find yourself in an emergency the moment something goes wrong with your motorcycle. In dealing with any mechanical problem, take into account the road and traffic conditions you face.

### Tire failure

You will seldom hear a tire go flat. If the motorcycle starts handling differently, it may be a tire failure. This can be dangerous. You must be able to tell from the way the motorcycle reacts. If one of your tires suddenly loses air, react quickly to keep your balance. Pull off and check the tires.

If the front tire goes flat, the steering will feel "heavy." A front flat is particularly hazardous because it affects your steering. You have to steer well to keep your balance.

If the rear tire goes flat, the back of the motorcycle may jerk or sway from side to side.

If either tire goes flat while riding:

- Hold handle grips firmly, ease off the throttle, and keep a straight course;
- If braking is required however, gradually apply the brake of the tire that isn't flat, if you are sure which one it is; and
- When the motorcycle slows, edge to the side of the road, squeeze the clutch and stop.

### **Stuck throttle**

Twist the throttle back and forth several times. If the throttle cable is stuck, this may free it. If the throttle stays stuck, immediately operate the engine cut-off switch, and pull in the clutch at the same time. This will remove power from the rear wheel, though engine noise may not immediately decline. Once the motorcycle is “under control,” pull off and stop.

After you have stopped, check the throttle cable carefully to find the source of the trouble. Make certain the throttle works freely before you start to ride again.

### **Wobble**

A “wobble” occurs when the front wheel and handlebars suddenly start to shake from side to side at any speed. Most wobbles can be traced to improper loading, unsuitable accessories or incorrect tire pressure. If you are carrying a heavy load, lighten it. If you can't, shift it. Center the weight lower and farther forward on the motorcycle. Make sure tire pressure, spring pre-load, air shocks and dampers are at the settings recommended for that much weight. Make sure windshields and fairings are mounted properly.

Check for poorly adjusted steering; worn steering parts; a front wheel that is bent, misaligned or out of balance; loose wheel bearings or spokes; and swing-arm bearings. If none of these are determined to be the cause, have the motorcycle checked out thoroughly by a qualified professional.

Trying to “accelerate out of a wobble” will only make the motorcycle more unstable. Instead:

- Grip the handlebars firmly, but don't fight the wobble;
- Close the throttle gradually to slow down (Do not

apply the brakes; braking could make the wobble worse.);

- Move your weight as far forward and down as possible; and
- Pull off the road as soon as you can to fix the problem.

## Chain problems

A chain that slips or breaks while you're riding could lock the rear wheel and cause your cycle to skid. Chain slippage or breakage can be avoided by proper maintenance.

**Slippage:** If the chain slips when you try to speed up quickly or ride uphill, pull off the road. Check the chain and sprockets. Tightening the chain may help. If the problem is a worn or stretched chain or worn or bent sprockets, replace the chain, the sprockets, or both before riding again.

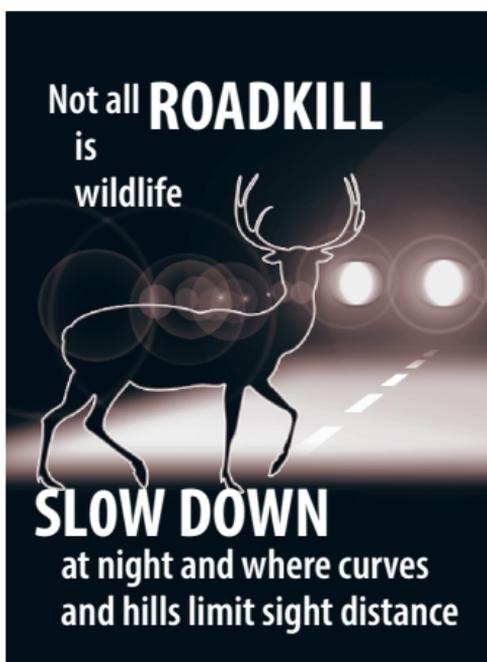
**Breakage:** You'll notice an instant loss of power to the rear wheel. Close the throttle and brake to a stop.

## Engine seizure

When the engine "locks" or "freezes" it is usually low on oil. The engine's moving parts can't move smoothly against each other, and the engine overheats. The first sign may be a loss of engine power or a change in the engine's sound. Squeeze the clutch lever to disengage the engine from the rear wheel. Pull off the road and stop. Check the oil. If needed, oil should be added as soon as possible or the engine will seize. When this happens, the effect is the same as a locked rear wheel. Let the engine cool before restarting.

## Animals

Naturally, you should do everything you safely can to avoid hitting an animal. If you are in traffic, however, remain in your lane. Hitting something small is



less dangerous to you than hitting something big, like a car.

Motorcycles seem to attract dogs. If you are chased, downshift and approach the animal slowly. As you approach it, accelerate away and leave the animal behind. Don't kick at an animal. Keep control of your motorcycle, and look to where you want to go. For larger animals (deer, elk, cattle), brake and prepare to stop. They are unpredictable.

## **Flying objects**

From time to time, riders are struck by insects, cigarettes thrown from cars or pebbles kicked up by the tires of the vehicle ahead. If you are wearing face protection, it might get smeared or cracked, making it difficult to see. Without face protection, an object could hit you in the eye, face or mouth. Whatever happens, keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the handlebars. When safe, pull off the road and repair the damage.

## **Getting off the road**

If you need to leave the road to check the motorcycle or just to rest for a while, be sure you:

- Check the roadside (Make sure the surface of the roadside is firm enough to ride on. If it is soft grass, loose sand or if you're just not sure about it, slow way down before you turn onto it.);
- Signal (Drivers behind might not expect you to slow down. Give a clear signal that you will be slowing down and changing direction. Check your mirror, and make a head check before you take any action.);
- Pull off the road (Get as far off the road as you can. It can be very hard to spot a motorcycle by the side of the road. You don't want someone else pulling off at the same place you are.); and
- Park carefully (Loose and sloped shoulders can make setting the side or center stand difficult.).

## **Cell phones**

Cell phones are a convenience but can divert your attention away from the task of riding. This lack of attention to the road may create a dangerous situation for you and other vehicles around you. When possible, pull off to the side of the road when using your cell phone.

Cell phones are everywhere. In emergencies they can be lifesavers, and, at other times, they can simply be a great communications tool. But using a cell phone while operating a motorcycle is a very dangerous thing to do and should be avoided.

Federal studies have shown that using cell phones, including the hands-free variety, has precipitated many crashes and near misses. And, in fact, using hands-free cell phones provides little safety benefit over hand-held phones, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In addition, the research shows that it is the actual process of conversing that proves to be among the greatest driver distractions.

Wyoming law prohibits reading or sending a text message from a cell phone or other device while operating a vehicle. Some cities and towns in Wyoming have ordinances against using a cell phone while operating a vehicle within city limits, so be sure to check ahead and watch for notifications banning the use of a cell phone. WYDOT recommends vehicle operators pull well off the highway and stop before making a cellular call or texting.

Always remember, your first responsibility when you are riding is to pay attention to the road.

## **Fatigue**

Operating a motorcycle while you are tired is also a very dangerous thing to do. To avoid fatigue:

- Limit your distance (Experienced riders seldom try to ride more than about six hours a day.);
- Take frequent rest breaks (Stop, and get off the motorcycle at least every two hours.); and
- Don't drink or use drugs (Artificial stimulants often result in extreme fatigue or depression when they start to wear off. Riders are unable to concentrate on the task at hand.)

# Sharing your motorcycle, riding in groups

## Carrying passengers, cargo

Only experienced riders should carry passengers or large loads. The extra weight changes the way the motorcycle handles, balances, turns, speeds up and slows down. Before taking a passenger or heavy load on a street, practice away from traffic.

### Equipment

To carry passengers safely:

- Equip and adjust your motorcycle to carry passengers;
- Instruct the passenger before you start; and
- Adjust your riding technique for the added weight.

Equipment should include:

- A proper seat, large enough to hold both of you without crowding (You should not sit any farther forward than you usually do.);
- Foot pegs for the passenger (Firm footing prevents your passenger from falling off and pulling you off too.); and
- Protective equipment, the same protective gear recommended for operators.

Adjust the suspension to handle the additional weight. You will probably need to add a few pounds of pressure to the tires if you carry a passenger (Check your owner's manual for appropriate settings.). While your passenger sits on the seat with you, adjust the mirror and headlight according to the change in the motorcycle's angle.

### Instructing passengers

Even if your passenger is a motorcycle rider, provide complete instructions before you start. Tell your passenger to:

- Get on the motorcycle only after you have started the engine;
- Sit as far forward as possible without crowding you;
- Hold firmly to your waist, hips or belt;
- Keep both feet on the pegs, even when stopped;
- Keep legs away from the muffler(s), chains or other moving parts;
- Stay directly behind you, leaning as you lean; and

- Avoid unnecessary talk or motion.

Also, tell your passenger to tighten his or her hold when you:

- Approach surface problems;
- Are about to start from a stop; and
- Warn that you are about to make a quick or sudden move.

## **Riding with passengers**

Your motorcycle will respond more slowly with a passenger on board. The heavier your passenger, the longer it will take to slow down, speed up or turn, especially on a light motorcycle. Always:

- Ride a little slower, especially when taking curves, corners or bumps;
- Start slowing earlier as you approach a stop;
- Open up a larger cushion of space ahead and to the sides; and
- Wait for larger gaps to cross, enter or merge in traffic.

Warn your passenger of special conditions, such as when you will pull out, stop quickly, turn sharply or ride over a bump. Turn your head slightly to make yourself understood, but keep your eyes on the road ahead.

## **Carrying loads**

Most motorcycles are not designed to carry much cargo. Small loads can be carried safely if positioned and fastened properly. Make sure to:

- Keep the load low (Fasten loads securely, or put them in saddle bags. Piling loads against a sissybar or frame on the back of the seat raises the motorcycle's center of gravity and disturbs its balance.);
- Keep the load forward (Place the load over, or in front of, the rear axle. Tank bags keep loads forward, but use caution when loading hard or sharp objects. Make sure a tank bag does not interfere with handlebars or controls. Mounting loads behind the rear axle can affect how the motorcycle turns and brakes. It can also cause a wobble.);
- Distribute the load evenly (Load saddlebags with about the same weight. An uneven load can cause the motorcycle to drift to one side.);
- Secure the load (Fasten the load securely with elastic

cords, such as bungee cords or nets. Elastic cords with more than one attachment point per side are more secure. A tight load won't catch in the wheel or chain, causing it to lock up and skid. Rope tends to stretch, and knots come loose, permitting the load to shift or fall.); and

- Check the load (Stop and check the load occasionally to make sure it has not worked loose or moved.).

## Group riding

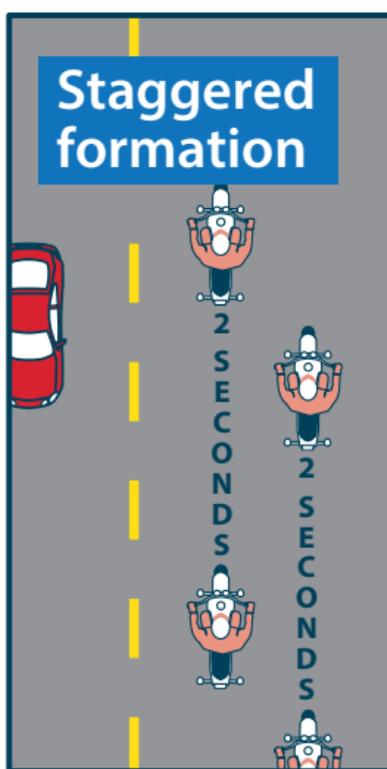
If you ride with others, do it in a way that promotes safety and doesn't interfere with the flow of traffic.

### Keep the group small

Small groups make it easier and safer for car drivers who need to get around them. A small number isn't separated as easily by traffic or red lights. Riders won't always be hurrying to catch up. If your group is larger than four or five riders, divide it up into two or more smaller groups.

### Keep the group together

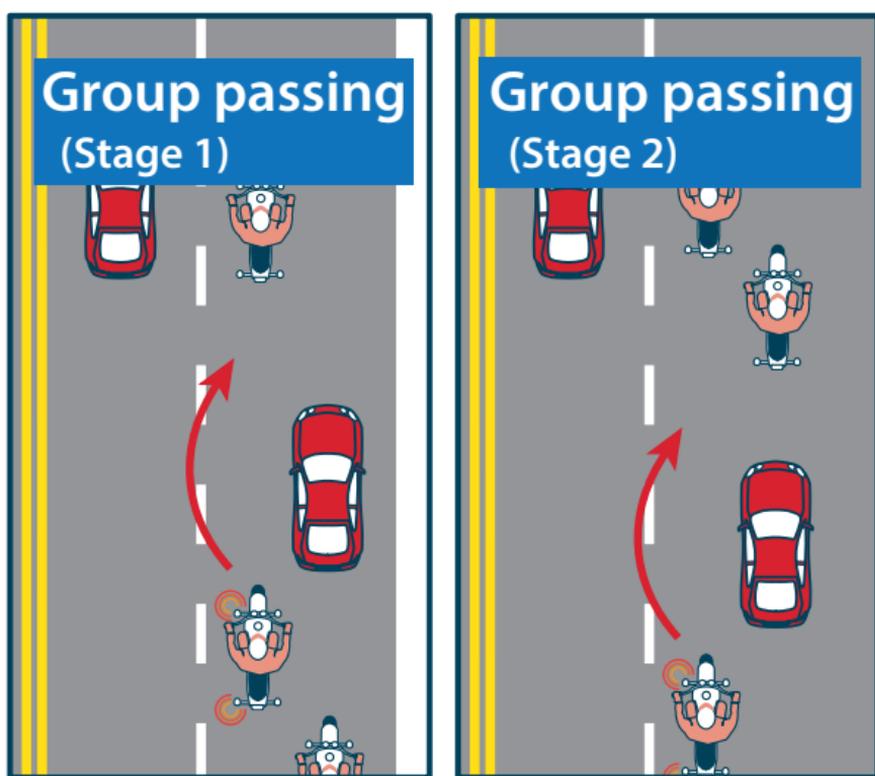
- Plan (The leader should look ahead for changes and signal early so "the word gets back" in plenty of time. Start lane changes early to permit everyone to complete the change.);
- Put beginners up front (Place inexperienced riders just behind the leader. That way the more experienced riders can watch them from the back.);
- Follow those behind (Let the tailender set the pace. Use your mirrors to keep an eye on the person behind. If a rider falls behind, everyone should slow down a little to stay with the tailender.); and
- Know the route (Make sure everyone knows the route. Then if someone is separated, they won't have to hurry to keep from getting lost or taking a wrong turn. Plan frequent stops on long rides.).



## Keep your distance

Maintain close ranks but at the same time keep a safe distance to allow each rider in the group time and space to react to hazards. A close group takes up less space on the highway, is easier to see and is less likely to be separated. However, it must be done properly. You should:

- Not pair up (Never operate directly alongside another rider. There is no place to go if you have to avoid a car or something on the road. To talk, wait until you are both stopped.);
- Maintain a staggered formation (This is the best way to keep ranks close yet maintain an adequate space cushion. The leader rides in the left side of the lane, while the second rider stays one second behind in the right side of the lane. A third rider maintains in the left position, two seconds behind the first rider. The fourth rider would keep a two-second distance behind the second rider. This formation keeps the group close and permits each rider a safe distance from others ahead, behind and to the sides.);
- Pass in formation (Riders in a staggered formation should pass one at a time. First, the lead rider should pull out and pass when it is safe. After passing, the leader should return to the left position and continue riding at passing speed to open room for the next rider. After the first rider passes safely, the second rider should move up to the left position and watch for a safe chance to pass. After passing, this rider



should return to the right position and open up room for the next rider.).

Some people suggest that the leader should move to the right side after passing a vehicle. This is not a good idea. It encourages the second rider to pass and cut back in before there is a large enough space cushion in front of the passed vehicle. It's simpler and safer to wait until there is enough room ahead of the passed vehicle to allow each rider to move into the same position he or she held before the pass.

## **Single-file formation**

It is best to move into a single file formation when riding curves, turning, entering or leaving a highway.

## **Moped tips**

An accidental take-off can be a problem when a Moped is on its kickstand with the motor running. Hold the rear brake on firmly.

## **Driving a moped**

A moped may be operated with a class license, instruction permit or restricted "RM" license.

When traveling behind another moped, stay at least two vehicle lengths back and slightly to one side of the moped in front. Before a turn or stop, the driver in front should signal early, to give the driver behind plenty of warning.

When making right turns, watch out for any car which may also be turning right. If it turns sharply, it could run your moped off the road or actually run into your vehicle. You're safest if you stay far enough behind and to the right of the rear bumper. Then, you're not in the motorist's blind spot and can watch his directional signals.

Always signal properly. Use electric signals if your moped has them or use hand signals. Hand signals, always given with the left hand, are:

- For a left turn, the left hand and arm are extended horizontally;
- For a right turn, the left hand and arm are extended upward;

- To stop or slow, the left hand and arm are extended downward.

## **Pedaling**

Keep your feet on the pedals, even with the motor running. If you don't, the pedals may keep on turning and could hit the pavement when you lean to turn. When the motor is off, the moped should pedal like a regular bicycle. The chain should turn freely without touching the chain guard. Pedaling a moped is much tougher than a regular bike however, and it's important to have your seat and handlebars adjusted to make pedaling easy. Your heels should be able to touch the ground while you are seated astride the saddle. This will allow your legs to almost straighten on each downward stroke. Pedal with the balls of the feet for maximum power with least effort. You will often find it useful to pedal to help the motor when going up hills. Going downhill, don't pedal. Instead, turn off the motor and "pump" the brakes.

## **Service and repair**

Leave major repairs to dealers. Take your moped in for routine maintenance at regular intervals. For minor repairs, carry a set of small tools, including wrenches, screwdrivers and pliers. Also carry extra light bulbs and a spare spark plug. Know how to fix a flat tire. Carry a spare tube, patch kit and hand air pump, especially on longer trips.

# Definitions

**Authorized Emergency Vehicles:** fire, police or ambulance vehicles or others approved by statute.

**Bicycle:** any vehicle powered solely by human power, upon which any person may ride, having two (2) tandem wheels, except scooters and similar devices. Legally classified as vehicles, bicycles can be ridden on all public roadways in Wyoming. While not legally required, a properly fitted and Consumer Product Safety Certified bicycle helmet is highly recommended for protection against serious head injury or death. A Snell Memorial Foundation approval will provide assurance of quality regarding a helmet.

**Blind Spot:** the area near the right and left rear corners of the vehicle which cannot be seen through the mirrors. The driver must turn his/her head to view these areas.

**Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC):** the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream.

**Brakes:** device used to stop the vehicle.

**Critical Object:** any person, vehicle, animal or anything else that could cause a driver to slow down, speed up or turn.

**Crosswalk:** a place where people may legally cross the street or highway. The crosswalk may or may not be marked. If there are no markings, a crosswalk is considered to be where imaginary lines would connect the sidewalks on each side of the street or highway.

**Driving While Under the Influence (DWUI):** the operation of a vehicle by a person who is under the influence of alcohol or who is under the influence of a controlled substance.

**Emancipated Minor:** a person at least 17 years of age, who is or was married, is in the military service of the United States, or who has been emancipated by the district court. Emancipated minors may have this status

put on their Wyoming licenses by making application to the department and paying the required fee.

**Gap in Traffic:** an opening or space between vehicles in traffic that is large enough for a vehicle to enter safely.

**Helmet:** protective headgear.

**Hydroplaning:** when a vehicle's tires ride on a thin film of water instead of the road.

**Immigrant:** any person who is not a citizen of the United States of America.

**Intersection:** the area where highways or streets join or cross each other.

**Lane:** a section of roadway for a single line of vehicles.

**Median:** a barrier of grass, concrete or other material separating two roadways, such as the area between the two roadways on an interstate highway. It is not legal to ride over, across or on the median.

**Merging Traffic:** a situation where two moving lanes of traffic come together, such as an entrance ramp on an interstate.

**Moped:** a vehicle equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to allow propulsion by human power, an automatic transmission and a motor with cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters, producing no more than two-brake horsepower, whose motor is capable of propelling the vehicle at a maximum speed of no more than 30 miles per hour on a level road surface.

**Motorcycle:** a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground but which may have a sidecar to transport a single passenger. For the purpose of registration and titling, "motorcycle" includes motorized bicycles, scooters and recreational vehicles primarily designed for off-road use and designed to be ridden astride upon a seat or saddle and to travel on four wheels, but excludes mopeds and off-road three-wheel recreational vehicles.

**Motor Vehicle:** every vehicle which is self-propelled by some power source other than muscular power and used on public highways for transporting persons or property or both. This includes motorcycles and mopeds.

**Moving Violation:** an act of control or lack of control by the driver of a motor vehicle while the vehicle is in motion, that results in a conviction, including a conviction for driving in violation of the restriction for corrective lenses and/or outside mirrors.

**Multipurpose Vehicle:** a vehicle having an identifying number, having at least four wheels, weighing 300 to 3,000 pounds and having a permanent upright seat at least 24 inches from the ground. The vehicle must be registered and plated to be operated on streets and highways, but may NOT be operated on interstate highways and is subject to slow-moving vehicle requirements. The holder of any class of driver license may drive a multipurpose vehicle. Drivers who currently hold a "motorcycle" class license with an "R" restriction for an "ATV vehicle only" will not be renewed with this class and restriction, as an ATV is considered a multipurpose vehicle and does not require the "M" or "R" on the license.

**No-Zone:** an area on either side or directly behind a heavy vehicle in which another vehicle is not visible to the driver.

**Off-Road Recreational Vehicle:** a recreational vehicle primarily designed for off-road use which is 50 inches or less in width, has an unladen weight of 900 pounds or less and is designed to be ridden astride upon a seat or saddle and to travel on at least three low-pressure tires.

A "low pressure tire" is a pneumatic tire at least 6 inches in width, designed for use on wheels with a rim diameter of 12 inches or less and having a manufacturer's recommended operating pressure of 10 pounds per square inch or less; any unlicensed motorcycle which has an unladen weight of 600 pounds or less and is designed to be ridden off road with the operator astride upon a seat or saddle and travels on two tires; and any multi-wheeled motorized vehicle not required by law to be licensed and is designed for cross-country travel on or over land, sand, ice or other natural terrain and which has an unladen weight of more than 900 pounds.

Wherever practicable, off-road recreational vehicles shall only be operated off the main traveled portion of the roadway. Crossings of main traveled roadways shall be made at right angles to the roadway or as nearly so as

practicable, but, in any case, yielding the right-of-way to all traffic in the main traveled roadway. If the operator is a minor, or if a minor is a rider, they shall be operated in accordance with all Wyoming helmet laws and be operated only by a person who possesses a valid driver license with a motorcycle endorsement.

**Pedestrian Vehicle:** any self-propelled conveyance designed, manufactured and intended for the exclusive use of persons with a physical disability. In no case shall a pedestrian vehicle exceed 48 inches in width.

**Reinstatement Fee:** the fee required to reinstate a person's driver license and/or driving privilege before a suspension or revocation can be lifted and the privilege to drive restored.

**Resident:** any person who is gainfully employed or engages in any trade, profession or occupation within this state **and** owns, leases or rents a place of residence or otherwise lives within Wyoming for the purpose of employment or remains in the jurisdiction for a period of 120 days or more; **OR** any person who is registered to vote in Wyoming; **OR** any person who has applied for public assistance from Wyoming; **OR** any person who holds a valid Wyoming resident hunting or fishing license.

**Revocation:** termination of a person's privilege to drive.

**Roadway:** that portion of a street or highway ordinarily used for driving.

**Shoulder:** that portion of the road beside the traveled highway. It may be either hard surfaced or gravel. It is used by stopped vehicles and helps provide proper drainage of the highway.

**Space Cushion:** the space that isolates your vehicle from other vehicles; a cushion of space ahead, behind and to the side of your vehicle.

**Suspension:** the TEMPORARY REMOVAL of a person's privilege to drive. The license may be returned after a specified period of time, and/or after certain requirements have been met.

**Total Stopping Distance:** the distance a vehicle travels before it comes to a complete stop. It includes the complete distance traveled while deciding to stop, then reacting, and finally after brakes are then applied.

**Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT):** the state agency responsible for the licensing of drivers in Wyoming. WYDOT's address is: 5300 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340.



[www.dot.state.wy.us](http://www.dot.state.wy.us)

[www.aamva.org](http://www.aamva.org)

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**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION 

*Produced by the  
Wyoming Department of Transportation  
Driver Services Program  
Public Affairs Office  
August 2021*

*Cover photo by Rick Carpenter, Public Affairs Office*