Advice for Drivers

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

Eyes Wide Open!
Be extra alert for motorcycles and mopeds at or near intersections. They can be difficult to see in heavy traffic.

Pay particular attention when making right turns across traffic, to ensure that a motorcyclist may not be coming straight through.

Make room. Motorcyclists are entitled to a full lane of traffic, just like another car, van or truck.

Keep a safe distance from the motorcyclist. Because of traffic conditions or other road hazards motorcyclists may have to swerve or stop suddenly.

Check your blind spots before turning, changing lanes, reversing, or parking. Many crashes occur because a driver did not check or see the motorcyclist.

Use extreme care when overtaking. Because of the smaller size of a bike, a car, van or truck passing too fast or too close could upset the motorcyclist out of control.

Always exercise care, caution and consideration towards all road users, especially motorcyclists.

Advice for Motorcyclists

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

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

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

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