

Motorcycle Safety

Safety is a mutual responsibility so all road users must do their part in making sure everyone makes it to their destination safely. By working together, we can help prevent crashes, injuries and deaths on Kentucky roadways.

Share the road with motorcycles

1. Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any other vehicle on the roadway.
2. Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width so the rider can maneuver safely.
3. Put the phone down and pay attention. Driving while distracted increases risk for all road users.
4. Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
5. Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in a blind spot due to the smaller size. Always check mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.
6. Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle—many turn signals on motorcycles are not self-cancelling. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
7. Allow at least a three-second following distance. Motorcyclists may change their speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road or traffic conditions
8. Obey the speed limit. Driving at the posted limit allows you to see, identify and react to possible obstacles.
9. Drive Sober. Alcohol and drugs affect judgment, balance and reaction time. Always make a plan for a safe ride home.
10. Buckle up. Wearing a seat belt gives you the best protection against injury or death.



SHARE THE ROAD
• KENTUCKY •

Kentucky's motorcycle helmet law

Kentucky first enacted a motorcycle helmet law for all riders in 1968. This law was amended in July 1998 to require helmet use only by:

- Motorcycle operators and passengers under the age of 21;
- Motorcycle operators who possess a motorcycle instruction permit;
- Motorcycle operators who have had an operator's license for less than one year.



Did you know?

- More than 80% of crashes involving motorcycles in Kentucky include a motorcycle and at least one other vehicle. *Source: Kentucky Office of Highway Safety*
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are more than 30 times more likely to die in a crash than occupants of cars, and five times more likely to be injured.
- When the universal helmet law was repealed in Kentucky in 1998, motorcycle fatalities increased by over 50 percent. *Source: NHTSA*
- Helmets are estimated to be 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries to motorcycle riders and 41 percent for motorcycle passengers. *Source: NHTSA*

Tips for motorcyclists

1. Wear protective gear at all times, including a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) compliant helmet. Look for the DOT symbol on the outside back of the helmet;
2. Choose brightly colored clothing to make yourself more visible. If you wear dark clothing, wear a reflective vest;
3. To be easily seen by other drivers, turn headlights on, even in daylight hours;
4. Pay attention by avoiding any action that takes your eyes, your ears or your mind off the road and traffic;
5. Use turn signals for every turn or lane change, and combine with hand signals;
6. Ride sober. Alcohol and/or drugs can impair your judgment, coordination and reaction time;
7. Leave plenty of room between your bike and other vehicles. Your stopping distance may be increased if you have a passenger or heavy bundle;
8. Ride within your own skill limits;
9. Obey all traffic laws and ride with the flow of traffic;
10. Get trained and licensed. For more information visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at www.msf-usa.org; and

Visit ridesafeky.com for more information.



For additional information:

- Kentucky Motorcycle Rider Education Program: <http://ride.ky.gov>
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet: <http://drive.ky.gov>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/motorcycle-safety>

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Office of Highway Safety



<http://highwaysafety.ky.gov>
502-564-1438 or 1-888-374-8768