

Safety Tips for Motorcyclists

Protect Your Head – Wear a Helmet

Motorcyclists in Virginia must wear an approved protective helmet. The operator must also wear a face shield or safety glasses/goggles or the motorcycle must be equipped with a windshield type approved by the Virginia State Police. Passengers must also wear an approved helmet.

Wear Protective Clothing

The most important factor in reducing injury is personal protection. Leather jackets, gloves, long pants, proper footwear, eye protection, and helmets provide this personal protection.

Be Visible

Choose protective gear that will increase your visibility in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash.

Ride Where You Can Be Seen

Make sure you can be seen by drivers around you. Never ride in another driver's blind spot.

Drive Defensively

Drive your motorcycle defensively, always watch out for others around you.

Leave a Buffer Zone

Give yourself extra space in your lane for emergency braking situations or other avoidance maneuvers.

Single Lanes

Never share a lane with a car. A driver may not expect you to be there and may not be aware of your presence. Most drivers are looking for other vehicles, not motorcycles.

Use Signals

Always clearly signal your intentions to other drivers. Signal before changing lanes, make your lane move gradually, and never weave between lanes.

Maintain Your Motorcycle

Make sure your motorcycle is in good working order. Have your motorcycle inspected to ensure good mechanical condition.

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