

## **QUICK TIPS: General Guidelines For Riding A Motorcycle Safely Be visible:**

**Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles.**

- 1. Make sure your headlights work and is on day and night.**
- 2. Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.**
- 3. Avoid riding in the blind spots of cars and trucks. If possible, flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.**
- 4. Have an escape route in case a motorist doesn't see you and violates your right-of-way.**
- 5. Dress for safety: Wear a quality helmet and eye protection. A full-face helmet provides the best protection.**
- 6. Wear leather or other sturdy, protective clothing (jacket and pants); over-the-ankle boots; and gloves.**
- 7. Bright clothing and a light-colored helmet increase the chances of being seen.**
- 8. Dress for a crash as well as for the ride.**
- 9. Apply effective mental strategies:**
- 10. Constantly search the road for changing conditions. Use the Search-Evaluate-Execute strategy (SEE) to assess and respond to hazards before you have to react to an emergency.**
- 11. Give yourself space and time as you search for traps and escape paths.**
- 12. Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.**
- 13. Use lane positioning to see and be seen.**
- 14. Search for vehicles that may turn across your path, especially at intersections.**
- 15. Use your turn signals for all turns and lane changes.**
- 16. Ride as if you're invisible.**
- 17. Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.**
- 18. Know and follow the rules of the road.**
- 19. Know your bike and how to use it:**
- 20. Study your motorcycle's owner's manual and make a habit of doing a pre-ride check.**
- 21. Visit [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org) to take one of our online courses or review the wealth of information in our library. Get formal hands-on training and take refresher courses. Call 800.446.9227 or visit [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org) to locate a Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCourseSM near you. Develop your riding techniques before venturing into traffic, especially emergency braking and swerving maneuvers. Practice often to keep your skills sharp. Corner within your skill limits. Aggressive cornering is a major cause of crashes. Know how to handle your bike in adverse conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces. Remember: Be mindful of collision traps and escape paths. People driving cars often don't notice motorcycles. Ride within your skill level and situational limits.**

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