

SAFETY SENSE

Stay On The Road To Motorcycle Safety

(NAPSA) — Operating a motorcycle takes different skills than driving a car, but the laws of the road apply to every driver just the same.

A combination of consistent education, regard for traffic laws and basic common sense can go a long way in helping reduce the amount of accidental motorcycle fatalities.

For instance, something as simple as wearing a helmet with protective eyewear could drastically reduce your chances of being seriously hurt in a crash. In fact, a motorcycle rider not wearing a helmet is five times more likely to sustain a critical head injury.

Try these additional tips from GEICO. They could keep you on the road to safety.

On The Bike

- Wear appropriate gear — Leather clothing, boots with non-skid soles and gloves can protect your body from severe injuries. Consider attaching reflective tape to your clothing to make it easier for other drivers to see you.

- Follow traffic rules — Obey the speed limit and be aware of local traffic laws and rules of the road.

- Ride defensively — Nearly two-thirds of all motorcycle accidents are caused by a driver violating a rider's right of way.

Always ride with your headlights on; stay out of a driver's blind spot; signal well in advance of a turn and watch for turning vehicles.

- Keep your skills honed — Complete a formal riding education program, get licensed and take riding courses from time to time to stay sharp.

- Be smart — Alcohol, fatigue and drowsiness can impair your ability to react, so never drink and drive and be sure that you



Following a few tips can help keep motorcyclists safe.

are well rested when you hit the road.

Before You Ride

Keeping your motorcycle fit for the road is just as important as practicing safe riding. Always check the following before riding:

- Tires — Check for cracks or bulges or signs of wear in the treads. Low tire pressure or defects could cause a blowout.

- Leakage — Look for signs of oil or gas leaks.

- Headlight, taillight and signals — Make sure that all lights are functioning.

- Fluids — Check hydraulic and coolant levels weekly.

- Clutch and throttle — Make sure they are working smoothly.

- Mirrors — Clean and adjust all mirrors.

- Brakes — Each brake should feel firm and hold the motorcycle still when fully applied.

- Horn — Test the horn.

For more information, visit <http://geico.com/information/motorcyclesafety/>.