Motorcycle Awareness

- Each year, approximately **5,000 motorcyclists die in accidents**, making up **14%** of all roadway fatalities
- An additional **84,000 motorcyclists are injured**
- Per mile traveled, motorcycle fatalities occur **29 times** more frequently than car fatalities!¹

Left Turn Dangers

41% of all motorcycle fatalities involving another vehicle occur when the **vehicle is turning left**.¹

**Primary causes:**
- Passing motorcycle not expected or in driver’s blind spot
- Driver not signaling turn
- Oncoming motorcycle is hidden by another vehicle
- Oncoming motorcycle not visible due to small size, sun glare, etc.
- Driver misjudges how fast the oncoming motorcycle is approaching
- Driver distracted and not looking for motorcycles

**What you can do:**
- Look for motorcycles when making left turns!
- Always signal your turns
- If you are not sure you have enough space to turn safely, wait until the motorcycle passes
- Be 100% focused on your turn, no distractions.

¹Traffic Safety Facts, 2019, Motorcycles DOT HS 813 112, National Highway Transportation Administration, September 2021
Lane Changes and Blind Spots

Due to their small size, motorcycles often blend into the background, making them difficult to see. Look twice!

- Always use your turn signal
- Make sure your mirrors are adjusted properly (adjust out; you should only see a small portion of your own car)
- Always turn your head to check your blind spots
- Pay attention to lane-change warning systems, even though you cannot see anything

Following Motorcycles

One one-thousand...Two one-thousand...Three one-thousand...Four one-thousand

Minimum of four seconds following distance

- Motorcycles can stop much quicker than vehicles. If you don’t have an adequate gap, you are more likely to rear-end them in an emergency braking situation
- Motorcycles are more likely to brake or swerve unexpectedly when encountering road debris ahead
- Motorcycles often slow by downshifting, which does not trigger the brake light
- Follow at least four seconds behind. When the motorcycle passes a point along the roadway, begin counting. If you pass the point before four seconds, back off and count again
- Increase your distance further when operating larger vehicles, pulling trailers and during inclement weather

Caution:
Motorcycle turn signals often do not cancel when a lane change is completed. Be cautious about pulling out in front of a motorcycle with its turn signal on — they may not be turning!