**Motorcycle Safety**

Join the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) safety initiative to educate the public about the importance of motorcycle safety. Remember: *Motorcyclists’ Safety Is Everyone’s Safety*.

**Talking Points**

**Tips for Motorcyclists**

* Observe all traffic laws and always obey the speed limit.
* Wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other personal protective gear. NHTSA estimates that helmets saved the lives of 1,872 motorcyclists in 2017. An additional 749 lives could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn their helmets.
* Never ride while impaired or distracted. A DUI costs an average $10,000 and can lead to jail time, loss of your operator’s license, and higher insurance rates.
* Complete rider education courses and ride with a current motorcycle license.
* Drive and ride defensively.

**Tips for Motorists**

* Remember that motorcyclists have the same rights on the road as any other motorist.
* Observe all traffic laws, use signals, and always obey the speed limit. Yield to motorcyclists, especially when you are turning at intersections.
* Motorcycles are smaller than most vehicles and can be difficult to see. If you are turning at an intersection with an obstructed view of oncoming traffic, wait to see around the obstruction, scan for all roadway users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists), and proceed cautiously.
* When following a motorcycle, allow for plenty of space around the motorcycle to maneuver or stop in an emergency, change speed, or adjust lane position to avoid hazards.
* Never drive distracted.

**FMVSS No. 218 and Helmet Compliance**

* The DOT requires all motorcycle helmets sold in the United States meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 218, which outlines helmet safety requirements.
* Many states have laws requiring FMVSS No. 218 DOT-compliant helmets.
* How to spot an unsafe helmet: Check for weight, helmet liner thickness, sturdy chinstraps, and the DOT certification label to determine if the helmet meets the Federal safety standard. Familiarize yourself with brand names and helmet designs that comply with DOT requirements. For more information on FMVSS No. 218 and novelty helmets, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/14283-identify\_unsafe\_motorcycle\_helmets\_070919\_v4\_tag.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/14283-identify_unsafe_motorcycle_helmets_070919_v4_tag.pdf).

**Motorcycles and Alcohol Use**

* Whether driving a vehicle or a motorcycle, it is always illegal to drive while impaired by any substance — drugs or alcohol. If your plans include alcohol, plan for a sober ride.

**Stats**

For more information, visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/). For additional statistics, visit <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/> and search “motorcycle” under Crash Data Publications.