

Motorcycle Safety Facts and Tips

1. Motorcycle Fatality Stats:

- Motorcycles riders have a fatality rate that is 30 times higher than passenger vehicles.
- Motorcycle fatalities as a percentage of all vehicle fatalities in each state: Hawaii is highest at 26% and Mississippi is lowest at 7%. South Carolina is around the middle at 15%.
- Fatalities are twice as likely while riding a Sport bike and 4 times as likely while riding a Super Sport bike than riding a cruiser. But more riders over 50 are involved in motorcycle fatalities just because there are many more cruisers on the road than sport bikes.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of motorcycle accidents involve other vehicles. $\frac{1}{4}$ are solo accidents.
- 154 fatalities in South Carolina in 2022. The US averaged 5000 motorcycle fatalities a year over the past 10 years.

2. Top causes of accidents and Fatalities

- Alcohol - 26% of fatalities in multi vehicle accidents and 37% in single motorcycle accidents had blood alcohol concentration at or above .08%
- Helmets reduce risk of death by 40% and brain injury by 69%
- Speeding is a leading cause of all types of vehicle accidents. Speeding reduces reaction time and increases more severe consequences at impact.
- 50% of multi vehicle accidents with motorcycles are attributed to left turning cars and cars running red lights at intersections.

What Can Be Done?

- The obvious is to wear a helmet, slow down especially at intersections and don't drink and drive.
- Do you know what the most common phrase a driver says after a collision with a motorcyclist? **"I didn't even see them "**
- Drivers are trained to see other cars, not bikes. And because of our narrow profile, we often find ourselves in an auto's blind spot.

The best way to ride is defensively.

1. Pretend nobody sees you.
2. Do your best to predict driver behavior.
3. Never stop looking, scanning and being alert.

Summary

1. Wear a helmet
2. Slow down especially at intersections
3. Don't drink and drive
4. Drive defensively