



**Welcome** to the Washington State Motorcycle Safety Program’s Motorcycle Awareness Video for Driver Education students. This 8 minute video, created using a grant from the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, is meant to be a relevant and easily accessible tool for Driver Training providers to use as they fulfill the motorcycle awareness requirement of their curriculum.

### **About The Washington Motorcycle Safety Program**

In response to a growing level of motorcycle-related incidents, legislation was enacted in 1982 charging Department of Licensing (DOL) with developing and implementing the Washington Motorcycle Safety Program (WMSP). WMSP is supported by Washington motorcycle endorsement fees and is tasked with providing:

- Public awareness of motorcycle safety
- Motorcycle safety education programs including classroom and on-cycle training
- Improved operator testing

WMSP educates riders on responsibility, foundational skills, safer street strategies for risk management, impairment awareness, and methods/concepts allowing riders - and drivers - to make informed, effective, and safe choices.

### **About This Video**

This video was created with teen driver education students in mind, and follows a teen driver as a motorcyclist helps the driver learn about safer choices while sharing the road with motorcyclists. It seeks to convey basic technical information useful to new drivers as well as create empathy for all road users.

Included with this video for your optional use are the following learning tools:

- 1) *Essential/Review Questions* – Designed as conversation starters and/or review questions.
- 2) *Activities* – Three activities to actively engage students in learning about sharing the road with motorcycles
- 3) *Talking Points - Motorcycles: What Does a Car Driver Need to Know?*
- 4) *Quiz* – A follow-up to the video and intended, not as an assessment tool, but as an additional fun resource for instructors and students on the subject of sharing the roadway with motorcycles. *All answers are: d.*
- 5) *Motorcycle Safety/Awareness Resources*

### **Thank You**

We hope you find this video and its accompanying materials useful for your instructors and students. If you have any questions or would like further information or resources regarding motorcycle safety and awareness please contact the Washington Motorcycle Safety Program at [motorcycle@dol.wa.gov](mailto:motorcycle@dol.wa.gov) . Thank you for working so hard in supporting your students to make safe and informed choices behind the wheel and in helping to make Washington roadways safer for all users!

# Driver Education Video Learning Tools

## Essential/Review Questions

1. What experiences have you had driving around motorcycles?
2. What is one thing that surprises you about motorcycles and why?
3. If you could take one thing away from this video to teach a friend – what would it be?
4. What do you think is the most common type of car/motorcycle crash, and why? (*statistically cars turning left in front of motorcycles is the most common*)
5. What questions about driving around motorcycles did this video NOT answer?
6. Why are motorcycles harder to see than cars?
7. What can you do to increase your ability to see motorcycles?
8. If you were a rider – what would you want a new driver to know?
9. As a new driver – what would you want a rider to know?
10. Why could a fender-bender in a car be a fatal accident on a motorcycle?
11. In what way(s) as a driver can you contribute to keeping motorcyclists safe?
12. How can you use the information from this video to be a safer driver?

## Learning Activities:

### Activity #1 – Visibility

- Take 5-6 pieces of paper and place on floor as a dotted center line to create a 2-lane road. Ask for 4 volunteers.
- Ask 1<sup>st</sup> volunteer to be a “car”; place in a lane.
- Ask 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteer to be a “motorcycle”; place immediately behind the car. Have fun- vrooming noises allowed!
- “What can the rider do to be seen? And what can the driver do to see the biker?”
- Ask 3<sup>rd</sup> volunteer to be “another vehicle” headed in opposite direction; “How hard is it for *this* driver to see the bike? What can the rider do to be seen? And what can the driver do to see?”
- Ask 4<sup>th</sup> volunteer to be “another vehicle”; creating an intersection –to pull onto one of the lanes.
- “How hard it for *THIS* car to see the bike? What can the rider do to be seen? And what can the driver do to see? Does the rider’s choice(s) alter the driver’s ability to see? What can the driver do to see better?”

### Activity #2 – Awareness

We often don’t see what we don’t *expect* to see. Watch the one minute Awareness Test video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahg6qcgoy4>. When thinking about sharing the road with motorcycles, who is the moon-walking bear, and why?

### Activity #3 – Empathy

To help build empathy and understanding for motorcyclists try this: challenge the class to make a single stack of Jenga or similar blocks. As each student adds their block have them come up with a hazard drivers and/or riders face on the road (i.e.- road surface, fatigue, traffic, distracted drivers, weather, skill level, vulnerability, visibility, etc). *BUT* have students stack these block end-on-end because motorcycle riders also have to deal with balance. If stacked too high - what happens? Most accidents happen when a multitude of factors stack up, and the bike and rider “fall”. Could an inattentive, distracted, or uninformed/untrained driver topple the stack for a rider?

## Motorcycles: What Does a Car Driver Need To Know?

### 1) Visibility

- a. Motorcycles are narrower/smaller
  - i. Harder to pick out of the background
  - ii. Harder to judge speed and distance
  - iii. Easy to disappear in a blind spots
- b. Some riders wear bright colors, some wear black
  - i. Which is easier to see? Colors
  - ii. Which to you have to look for? BOTH
- c. Smaller head and tail/brake lights
  - i. Harder to notice slowing/breaking
  - ii. Bike's headlight(s) that's up close can look like merged headlights of car that's far away

### 2) Vulnerability

- a. Riders are vulnerable to EVERYTHING
- b. What may leave a small dent in a car, could seriously injure or kill a rider
- c. No included protective safety equipment
  - i. No air bags
  - ii. No steel cages
  - iii. No seatbelts
  - iv. No crumple zones
- d. No matter who's at fault, the rider gets hurt worse
- e. Surface conditions have major effect on motorcycles
  - i. Water on the road
  - ii. Slick street markings (arrows, crosswalks, etc.)
  - iii. Gravel
- f. Weather
  - i. Harder for driver to see rider
  - ii. Harder for rider to see driver

### 3) Maneuverability

- a. Faster acceleration and braking than most cars
- b. Riders often change positions within a lane to better see/be seen, reduce risk
- c. Need, and are entitled to, the whole lane

### 4) Empathy

- a. Under the helmet: there probably is *not* a Son of Anarchy
- b. Under the helmet: there *is* someone's child, friend, brother, sister, boyfriend, girlfriend, wife, husband, father, or mother

### 5) Rider Training

- a. Skills and safety: getting more out of you and your bike
- b. Discounted motorcycle insurance (often)
- c. Required (and only 50 bucks!) for 18 and under in WA

## Motorcycle Awareness Quiz

- 1) Motorcycles can be hard to see because:
  - a. They are small when compared to cars
  - b. They usually have only one or two closely-placed headlights
  - c. They are a lot less common than cars on the road
  - d. All of the above
- 2) Car/motorcycle accidents are:
  - a. Most often a car turning left in front of the bike
  - b. Likely to severely injure or kill a motorcyclist
  - c. Largely preventable
  - d. All of the above
- 3) Motorcycles are approximately what percentage of Washington vehicles:
  - a. 75%
  - b. 50%
  - c. 25%
  - d. 4%
- 4) All teenagers are:
  - a. Lazy
  - b. Don't know anything
  - c. Don't care about anything
  - d. None of the above - they are regular people
- 5) All motorcyclists are:
  - a. Sons of Anarchy
  - b. Racer-wannabes
  - c. Reckless
  - d. None of the above – they are regular people
- 6) The person most responsible for a car/motorcycle accident is:
  - a. The motorcyclist
  - b. The driver
  - c. Your stressed-out driving instructor
  - d. Both rider and driver
- 7) You can help keep motorcyclists safe by:
  - a. Always looking twice
  - b. Understanding more about driving and riding
  - c. Having awesome ninja-like reflexes
  - d. All of the above
- 8) If you are under 18 and want to ride you are required to take a training course in WA, however, the course only costs:
  - a. \$1,350,400.01
  - b. \$500,000.00
  - c. \$24,000.00
  - d. \$50.00 and is totally fun!

## **Motorcycle Awareness/Safety Resources**

Washington Motorcycle Safety Program: [motorcycle@dol.wa.gov](mailto:motorcycle@dol.wa.gov) 360-902-3900

Motorcycle Safety Foundation: [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org)

WA State Traffic Safety Commission motorcycle safety Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/itsafinelinewa>

WA motorcycle training and testing providers: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/motoschools.html>

Target Zero - Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan: [www.targetzero.com](http://www.targetzero.com)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles>