

**Article submitted by the
Chenango County
Traffic and Safety Board**



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Website.

As spring approaches people are going to get out their motorcycles. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2018, there were 4,985 motorcyclists killed, about the same as from 4,976 killed in 2015. Motorcycle fatalities occur nearly 29 times more frequently than car fatalities. Safer riding begins with a helmet. Helmets saved 1,772 lives in 2015, while 740 more lives could have been saved if riders had put on a helmet. When you wear a helmet, make sure it meets the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Vehicle safety standards. If your helmet doesn't have a face shield, be sure to wear goggles. Eye-glasses won't keep your eyes from watering and can easily falloff. Goggles will also protect your eyes from other debris. There are many Rider Safety Courses available designed to teach drivers that range from basic to advanced, where you can learn to refine your skills and sharpen your focus.

Arms and legs should be completely covered when riding a motorcycle, ideally by wearing leather or heavy denim. In addition to providing protection in a crash, protective gear also helps prevent dehydration. Boots or shoes should be high enough to cover your ankles, while gloves allow for a better grip and help protect your hands in the event of a crash.

It's especially important for motorists to understand the safety challenges faced by motorcyclists such as size and visibility, and motorcycle riding practices like downshifting and weaving, to know how to anticipate and respond to them. By raising motorists' awareness, both drivers and riders will be safer when sharing the road.

The failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the predominant cause of motorcycle accidents. The driver of the other vehicle involved in a collision with a motorcycle did not see the motorcycle before the collision. Other drivers need to be respectful of motorcyclists, by giving them room and looking out for them. Motorcyclists can help improve their visibility. There are flashing safety lights now on some helmets to help distinguish motorcycles from the road. There are safety vests in bright colors and clothing with reflective material to help make motorists easily see the motorcyclist. Motorcyclists should also keep their headlights on at all times to help with the visibility.

Many people express their love for the freedom and exhilaration of riding. While it may be exhilarating, it may lead to unsafe practices such as weaving in and out of traffic and driving too fast for the road conditions. Motorcyclists should be aware injury severity increases with speed, alcohol involvement, and motorcycle size.

Have a nice ride and be safe!

Don't Forget To Insure Your Motorcycle



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