

100

YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

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Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California
Brian P. Kelly, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
Jean Shiomoto, Director
California Department of Motor Vehicles

Cover photo: Cadillac touring car as seen from eastern side of Lake Tahoe with Mt. Tallac in background.

follow the same traffic laws, motorcyclists face additional dangers because motorcycles require exceptional handling ability and are harder to see. Therefore, many motorcycles keep their headlight on even during daylight hours.

From ahead or behind, a motorcycle's outline, whether 2 or 3 wheels, is much smaller than a passenger vehicle's outline. Most drivers expect to see larger vehicles on the road and are not looking for motorcycles. Motorcyclists can do many things to make it easier for others to recognize them while increasing their chances of being seen.

- Wear a bright-colored jacket, vest, and helmet.
- Wear reflective material on helmets and clothes.
- Use turn signals when planning to change lanes or turn.
- Flash their brake lights before slowing down to help others notice the motorcycle.

Follow these rules to **respect** the right-of-way and safely share the road with motorcyclists:

- When you change lanes or enter a major thoroughfare, make a visual check for motorcycles. Also use your mirrors. Motorcycles are small and can easily disappear into a vehicle's blind spots.
- Allow a four-second following distance. You will need this space to avoid hitting the motorcyclist, if he or she brakes suddenly or falls off the motorcycle.

Motorcycles generally can stop faster than passenger vehicles.

- Allow the motorcycle a full lane width. Although it is not illegal to share lanes with motorcycles, it is unsafe.
- Never try to pass a motorcycle in the same lane you are sharing with the motorcycle.
- When you make a turn, check for motorcyclists and gauge their speed before turning.
- Look carefully for motorcyclists before opening doors next to moving traffic or before turning right.
- Remember that road conditions, which are minor annoyances to you, pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement can cause motorcyclists to change speed or direction suddenly. If you are aware of the effect of these conditions and drive with care and attention, you can help reduce motorcyclist injuries and fatalities. For more information regarding motorcycle safety, contact the California Motorcyclist Safety Program at 1-877-RIDE-411 or www.ca-msp.org.

BICYCLES

Bicyclists:

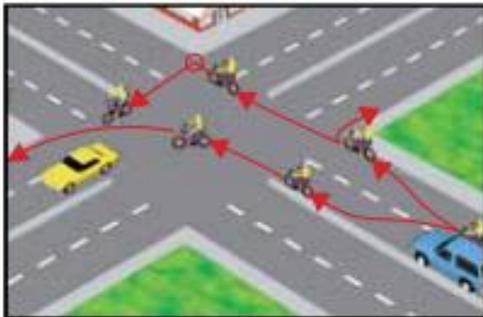
- Are entitled to share the road with motor vehicles.
- Have the same rights



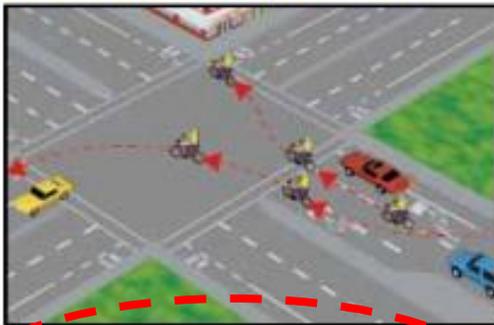
and responsibilities as motor vehicle and motorcycle drivers.

- Must obey all traffic signals and stop signs.
- Are lawfully permitted to ride on certain sections of roadway in rural areas where there is no alternate route.
- Must ride in the same direction as other traffic, not against it.

Turns for bicyclists



Intersections with special lanes



- Shall ride as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as practical—not on the sidewalk.
- May move left to pass a parked or moving vehicle, bicycle, animal, or avoid debris or other hazards.
- May choose to ride near the left curb or edge of a one-way street.
- Should ride single file on a busy or narrow street.
- Must make left and right turns in the same way drivers do, using the same turn lanes. If the bicyclist

is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than ride next to the curb and block traffic making right turns.

- Must signal all their intentions to motorists and bicyclists near them.
- Must wear a helmet if under the age of 18.
- Should carry identification.
- Shall not operate a bicycle on a roadway unless the bicycle is equipped with:
 - A brake which will enable the operator to make one braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

During darkness, bicyclists should avoid wearing dark clothing and **must** have the following equipment:

- A front lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet.
- A rear red reflector visible from a distance of 500 feet.
- A white or yellow reflector on each pedal or on the bicyclist's shoes or ankles visible from a distance of 200 feet.

Bicycles in Travel Lanes

When passing a bicyclist in the travel lane, you should allow at least three feet between your vehicle and the bicyclist, unless doing so would cause a hazard. In these cases, slow down and pass the bicyclist when it is safe to do so.