



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

WITH MERV SADDEN

MAINTAIN A SAFETY ZONE

The sad truth is that the most common words I hear from the motorists that collide with my motorcycle clients are: I didn't see him.

Recognizing this, there are precautions we can take as riders to minimize that risk. One is to wear visible and reflective clothing. Be seen! Another is to always be aware of our position on the road relative to the traffic around us and plan a safe emergency exit. As our bikes are not equipped with airbags, bumpers, or seat belts, it is critical that we maintain a cushion of space around us at all times.

For example, when stopping behind a vehicle always leave plenty of open space ahead of you in case the vehicle behind you does not stop. While stationary, monitor your mirrors and keep your bike in gear with your hand on the clutch so you can accelerate forward if necessary. That open space is your safety zone. The more space around you, the safer you will be.

Constant awareness of the traffic around us while maintaining a cushion of open space and a planned safe escape route will increase our chances of an accident free ride.