

Attorney Tip: By Warren Levenbaum



How to Minimize your Chances of Getting into a Motorcycle Accident
Often times, riders ask me what they can do to minimize their chances of getting into an accident. I reply, "Due to numerous variables, some of which are beyond your control, there is no way to completely avoid the risks associated with riding. However, there are a number of precautions that can be taken to significantly reduce your chances of being hit or severely injured (if you do go down)." Below are the precautions that I recommend and share with riders at events, our law office, and a number of motorcycle club and organization meetings:

Remain Visible

Remember that motorists often have difficulty seeing motorcycles and reacting in time. Make sure to be on the look out and drive defensively.

Make sure your headlight works and is on at all times.

Use reflective stickers on your clothing and your bike.

Keep in mind the blind spots of car and truck drivers.

Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.

If a motorist doesn't see you, don't hesitate to use your horn.

Proper Attire

Wear a quality helmet and eye protection.

Choose bright and/or reflective clothing and a light-colored helmet.

Wear leather or other thick, protective clothing.

Choose long sleeves, pants, boots, and gloves.

The only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.

Apply Riding Strategies

Continually search the environment for changing conditions.

Keep a safe distance between you and others to allow for safe responses.

Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.

Use lane positioning to enhance visibility.

Be aware of turning vehicles.

Allow ample reaction time to your next move.

Avoid weaving between lanes.

Drive cautiously and defensively.

Avoid riding when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Understand and follow traffic laws.

Know Your Bike

Review Bike Manual upon purchase, ask questions.

Conduct inspection of bike before each ride to make sure everything is working properly.

Practice with your bike and varying conditions to develop effective riding techniques.

Be prepared for all sorts of riding conditions, such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces.