

# Safe Riding Tips from a Law Enforcement Perspective!

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Motorcycle safety can be boring to talk about. Only one person is accountable for your safety, you. If you are not willing to get involved, then there isn't much anybody else can do. The bottom line, as the old song says is, "I'm leaving it up to you." Get involved and be proactive.

One friend nearly lost a leg and another did lose a leg in separate motorcycle accidents. A car pulled out of a side street into the side of one and a car turned left in front of the other. Neither car driver saw my friends. How could my friends have avoided the collision? Three words, BE MORE VISIBLE. There is no substitute for being seen.

When it comes to the law I've always been a minimalist. To me, 'less is more.' We go overboard passing laws to protect us from ourselves. But, sometimes, politicians get it right. California Vehicle Code Section **25251.2** is an example of the latter. Section **25251.2** says: "*Any motorcycle may be equipped with a means of modulating the upper beam of the headlamp between a high and a lower brightness at a rate of 200 to 280 flashes per minute. Such headlamps shall not be so modulated during darkness.*"

The Feds even showed a rare bit of common sense on this topic. The Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 108 (49 CFR Part 571.108 S7.9.4) allows motorcycle headlight modulation systems in all 50 states.

Simply put; people see and pay attention to modulating headlamps. Perhaps it is because emergency vehicles use modulating headlamps as warning lights. I don't know and I don't care - as long as it works and headlight modulators work.

Riders will spend a \$1,000.00 or more on great sounding pipes justifying it with a T shirt that says, "Loud Pipes Save Lives." The fact is; a driver with the windows rolled up, the stereo on and the air conditioner running, will not hear your pipes until you are along side of his car, if then. Siren tests with police cars show that. Conversely, riders hesitate to spend a hundred dollars on a headlamp modulator that makes them visible for a mile or more. Let's be honest, the T shirt should say, "Loud Pipes Are Cool." And...they are cool. But, headlamp modulators save lives and cost 90% less.

See you soon and remember...safe riding is no accident.

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