

Motorcycle Safety and Awareness:

The month of May has been designated as "Motorcycle Awareness Month" through proclamations issued by many local and county governments, as well as past and current Governors of Illinois. Our goal is to raise awareness levels in all motorists, that motorcyclists are returning to the roads and highways in greater numbers. During Motorcycle Awareness Month, our members will be distributing motorcycle safety posters and public service announcements throughout Illinois.

Members of A.B.A.T.E. are encouraged to participate, each May, in our annual "Freedom Rally" in Springfield. Riders come from all corners of the state to celebrate freedom of choice, and to show our appreciation of those representatives who support our positions, and remind those who oppose us, that we're still here!

- A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education of Illinois supports the education of all motorcyclists and the general motoring public as the most effective method for reducing motorcycle accidents, injuries and fatalities.
- A.B.A.T.E. of IL encourages all motorcyclists to complete both of the motorcycle safety courses, which were developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and are sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- A.B.A.T.E. of IL discourages the use of alcohol or drugs while operating, or riding as a passenger on, a motorcycle.
- A.B.A.T.E. of IL is in agreement with the United States Department of Transportation that motorcycle safety courses have been the single most important factor in significantly reducing motorcycle injuries and fatalities.

Education and Community Service

Motorcycle Awareness Program:

ABATE of Illinois' motorcycle awareness program was developed with the new and inexperienced driver in mind, and teaches them how to look for, and interact in traffic with motorcycles.

The presentation consists of a video, safety tips and a question-and-answer session presented by speakers provided "free of charge" by A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois.

Through MAP, A.B.A.T.E. of IL is teaching motorists how to properly "share the road" with motorcyclists in an ongoing effort to reduce accidents.

The presentation was developed from materials supplied by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, Illinois Dept. of Transportation, the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program of Greater Illinois, and the Safety and Education dept. of ABATE of Illinois. In addition to the awareness presentation, interested students are provided with information on "Rider Education" courses.

What all Drivers Should Know about Motorcycles:

- Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, say 3 or 4 seconds. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.
- Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-canceling, thus some riders, (especially beginners) sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change. Make sure a motorcycle's signal is for real.
- Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of wind, road debris, and passing vehicles. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to be reckless or show off.
- Because of its small size a motorcycle seems to be moving faster than it really is. Don't think motorcyclists are speed demons.
- Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection, predict a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
- Because of its small size, a motorcycle can easily be hidden by objects inside or outside of a car, such as: door posts, mirrors, passengers, bushes, fences, bridges, blind spots, etc. Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.
- Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes quick stopping difficult. Allow a motorcyclist more following distance because it can't always stop "on a dime".

- Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, but only at slower speeds and with good road conditions. Don't expect a motorcyclist to always be able to dodge out of the way.
- Carrying a passenger complicates a motorcyclist's task. Balance is more difficult. Stopping distance is increased. Maneuverability is reduced. Predict more problems when you see two on a motorcycle, especially near intersections.
- Mirrors are smaller on a motorcycle and are usually convex, thus giving a motorcyclist a smaller image of you and making you seem farther back than you really are. Keep at least a three or four second space cushion when following a motorcyclist.
- There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle and ignore it (usually unintentionally). Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at an intersection.
- At night, single headlights and taillights of motorcycles can blend into the lights of other traffic. Those "odd" lights could be a motorcycle.
- When a motorcycle is in motion, don't think of it as motorcycle; think of it as a person.