Motorcycle safety on the Gold Coast

Motorcycle riders are among our most vulnerable road users on the Gold Coast.

Simple advice for anyone returning to motorcycling:
• take the time to invest in a refresher course
• be aware of your own ability
• ensure your motorcycle is up to standard
• wear protective clothing.

Remember – motorcycles are prohibited in Gold Coast Parks and Reserves

Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020

Road safety is a community issue and our Road Safety Plan nominates actions and responsibilities for everyone, including road authorities, transport user advocates, law enforcement and the general public.

Underpinning our endeavours is our vision to reduce crashes, save lives and prevent serious trauma on the Gold Coast transport network.

This plan sets the direction for change in culture – a culture in which fatalities and serious injuries on Gold Coast Roads are not accepted as inevitable.

For more information
P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)
W goldcoast.qld.gov.au/roadsafety

Crash data statistics are based on results presented in the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020. The crash data statistics are based on the Queensland Road Crash Database* using a 5 year reporting period between 2008 and 2012.

Gender and age are significant predictors of road trauma involving motorcycles.

Men represent 90% motorcycle hospitalisation and 96% of fatalities.

Male motorcyclists aged 17–24 years represent 22% of all motorcycle traumas, yet only represent 6% of male motorcycle licence holders.

Gender

Motorcycle related crash statistics

29% of all serious road trauma is among pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycles.

Half of motorcycle crashes occur less than 5 kilometres from the coastline.

1 in 4 motorcycle crashes occur in the hinterland region and these crashes represent half of all motorcycle fatalities.

Within the hinterland road network, drivers and riders experience a wider variety of road conditions, larger number of roadside and environmental hazards and greater speed variation.

What is your sixth sense?

Your sixth sense is that unique instinct all riders share that helps us read the road, the conditions, the potential hazards and stay focused and in control. The more you hone and develop it, the better your chances are of surviving to ride another day.

The Motorcycle Fatal Five

Speed
The faster you go, the harder you hit. And on a motorbike, you’ll always come off second-best. The only thing speeding gets you closer to is a crash.

Alcohol and drugs
Even small amounts of alcohol and drugs affect your riding ability. Whatever anyone tells you, there’s no such thing as a safe level.

Fatigue
Riding tired affects reaction times and impairs judgement. Take a break or don’t get on the bike in the first place if you’re tired.

Distractions
At 80km/h you travel 44 metres in just 2 seconds, so always stay focused and leave time and space to react.

Gear and maintenance
Look after yourself and look after your bike. The right gear and regular maintenance can save your life.

Useful resources and videos
Whether you’re new to bikes, you’ve been riding all your life, or you’re coming back to it after a while away; developing and honing your sixth sense will help you stay safe and get more out of life on two wheels.

Motorcycle skills

Whether you’re new to bikes, you’ve been riding all your life, or you’re coming back to it after a while away; developing and honing your sixth sense will help you stay safe and get more out of life on two wheels.

Check out the video tutorials at jointhedrive.qld.gov.au/motorcycles

- Video tutorials on cornering, group riding, returning riders, and roadcraft.

- Queensland’s favourite rides including Springbrook Road, Gold Coast and Mt Lindesay Highway (from Beaudesert to the NSW boarder) and further afield.

- Tips on buying the safest bike you can afford and keeping up with new technology that could save your life, and links to the safe bike finder at vicroadssafebikes.carsalesnetwork.com.au

- Tips for returning riders – like getting familiar with the motorcycle and rebuilding riding skills and knowledge of the road rules – when the first couple of months back on the bike can be the most dangerous.

- Building vital roadcraft skills (observation, speed management, road position and attitude) as fundamental to developing a new riders’ sixth sense.

- Information about the right gear that could make the difference between a nasty fall and injuries that prevents riding again. The right gear enhances the riding experience and protects the rider from the elements.

Links to the Queensland Motorcycle Riders’ Guide which contains information on:

- motorcycle licensing and registration in Queensland
- road rules for riders, rider protection
- safe riding tips and attitudes
- children’s safety
- modifications
- makes and models
- classic and vintage motorcycles
- imports and custom motorcycles
- scooters and mopeds
- sidecars and trikes
- off-road riding
- motorcycle roadworthiness
- routine motorcycle maintenance, offences and penalties.