

Motorcyclists involved in crashes have a much higher risk of hospitalization or death than persons in cars or trucks.

Many injuries happen in predictable, preventable ways.

Always wear a helmet and protective clothing and don't ride impaired to help prevent death, disability, or disfigurement.

Motorcycle Safety

- Annually in the U.S., between 4,000 and 5,000 people die as the result of a motorcycle crash.
- In Oklahoma, 334 motorcyclists were hospitalized and 106 died in 2009.
- Alcohol or drug impairment is frequently reported for motorcyclists. Impaired riders are more likely to be hospitalized or die than unimpaired riders.
- Hospitalization or death is more frequent among motorcyclists not wearing a helmet.
- Based on Oklahoma data for 2009, typical hospital charges are over \$13,000 higher for unhelmeted motorcyclists than those wearing a helmet.
- Injuries to the head, face, or neck are twice as frequent among unhelmeted motorcyclists than those wearing a helmet.
- Nearly one-half of motorcycle crashes involve only the motorcycle. This type of crash more frequently results in hospitalization or death than crashes involving other vehicles.
- Motorcycle crashes in rural areas and crashes occurring at night result in more hospitalizations and deaths than crashes in urban areas and crashes during daylight hours.

Prevention

- Don't ride if impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.
- Wear a proper fitting DOT-approved helmet; you may want to consider helmets that are also Snell certified.
- Wear clothing or specialized gear that provides protection against road rash and impact injuries to other parts of the body.
- Be extra cautious if riding at night or on narrow rural roads, especially if you are unfamiliar with the road.
- Only ride motorcycles that you are familiar with and comfortable riding and that fit your riding experience level and physical ability.
- If new to riding, consider taking a motorcycle safety course that has a practical riding component.

Internet Resources

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/mc/index.html>
- SMARTER: <http://www.smarter-usa.org/>
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation: <http://msf-usa.org/>
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety: <http://www.iihs.org/>

Live Injury-Free!