

# **A NEW APPROACH TO MOTORCYCLE RIDER SAFETY**

## **A drivers guide to motorcycle awareness**

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This is a motorcycle awareness guide for drivers. It has been prepared to inform and encourage a new approach to motorcycle rider awareness, observation and road safety in Victoria, by:

- **Assisting drivers to better understand the importance of sharing roads with motorcycles**
- **Explaining to drivers how a riders life can depend on their actions and reactions**
- **Informing drivers what are the causes of many accidents involving motorcycles**
- **Providing drivers with tips regarding motorcycle awareness, observation and safety**
- **Showing drivers how improved motorcycle awareness & observation, can save the lives of and prevent serious injuries to motorcycle riders**

**ROAD SAFETY SHOULD BE AN EQUAL AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL ROAD USERS**

**ALL ROAD USERS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE VICTORIAN ROADS SAFER FOR EVERYONE**

**UNDERSTANDING OTHER ROAD USERS CAN MAKE ROADS SAFER FOR ALL**



# A NEW APPROACH TO MOTORCYCLE RIDER SAFETY

## HELPING DRIVERS UNDERSTAND MOTORCYCLES



**NO DRIVER EVER  
LEAVES HOME  
EXPECTING TO KILL  
OR CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY TO  
ANOTHER ROAD USER**

**LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO  
MAKE VICTORIAN ROADS  
SAFER FOR ALL ROAD USERS**

### UNDERSTANDING DRIVERS HARM RIDERS, RIDERS DO NOT HARM DRIVERS

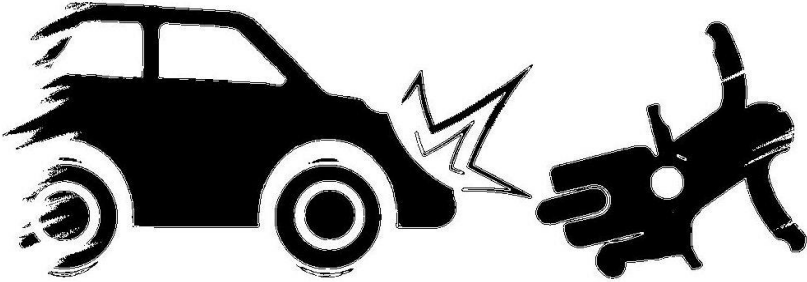
A new approach to motorcycle rider safety is proposed. Riders represent just 4% of vehicles on Victorian roads, but account for around 17% of deaths and serious injuries. This rate of carnage can and must be reduced.

In the last 5 years almost **200** motorcycle riders and their pillion passengers have been killed in accidents on Victorian roads.

**64%** of the accidents involved another vehicle, not many will be aware the evidence shows most were the fault of the driver.

# BE MOTORCYCLE AWARE

**A RIDERS LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT**



**SOME DRIVERS SPEND THE  
REST OF THEIR LIVES  
KNOWING THEY KILLED  
OR CAUSED SERIOUS INJURY  
TO A MOTORCYCLE RIDER**

**DON'T LET THAT BE YOU!**

## **THERE ARE NO TAKE BACKS**

A collision with a motorcycle can cause serious injury to the rider, or even worse, a fatality.

There are no take backs in a collision with a motorcycle, just a minor distraction, a moment of driver inattention and a rider can be killed.

Every rider belongs to a family, maybe yours.

The anonymous rider whose identity is hidden by their helmet could be a family member, friend, work mate or a neighbour.

**Would you take a chance and risk a collision if you knew who was under the helmet?**

# UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

## MOST MOTORCYCLE FATALITIES INVOLVE ANOTHER VEHICLE

Riders, like drivers, are not usually dangerous road users. However, motorcycles do not provide much protection and so riders are far more vulnerable than those in vehicles with 4 or more wheels.

Riders are sometimes, often unintentionally, placed in danger by drivers. Most drivers will be surprised road accident statistics show around 64% of motorcycle fatalities involve another vehicle and the driver is usually at fault.



**64%** OF VICTORIAN MOTORCYCLE  
FATALITIES INVOLVE ANOTHER VEHICLE

## Motorcycle crash data

### Lives Lost - Annual

In the last five years almost 200 motorcycle riders and pillion passengers have been killed on Victorian roads.

### Lives Lost - Year to Date

- 96% were male

### Lives Lost - Rolling 12 Month

- 57% were aged over 40
- 20% were aged over 60

### Searchable road trauma statistics

- 57% are killed in Metro Melbourne

### Statistics by Topic

- 38% crash on roads with a speed limit of 60km/h or lower. Of these:

### Road user statistics

- 64% involve another vehicle

## DID YOU KNOW?

**IN THE LAST 5 YEARS ALMOST 200 MOTORCYCLE RIDERS AND THEIR PILLION PASSENGERS WERE KILLED IN ACCIDENTS ON VICTORIAN ROADS. 64% OF THE ACCIDENTS INVOLVED ANOTHER VEHICLE MOST OF THE ACCIDENTS WERE THE FAULT OF THE DRIVER**

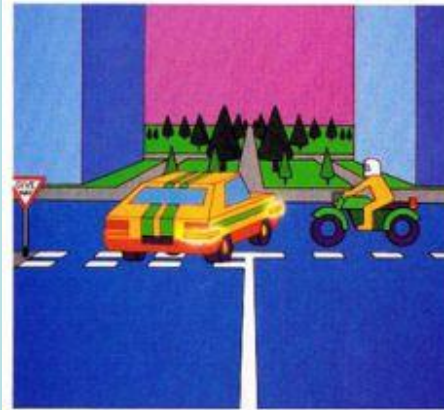
# UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

## MOST MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVE ANOTHER VEHICLE

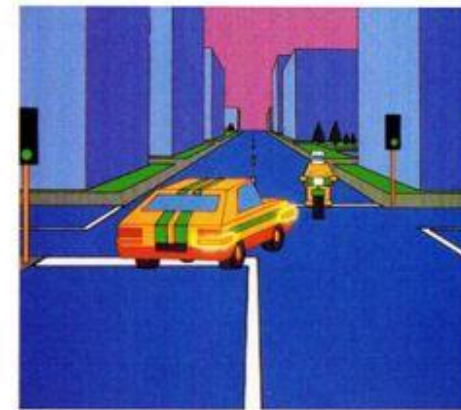
### ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ANOTHER VEHICLE

The 4 most frequent causes of motorcycle accidents involving another vehicle are:

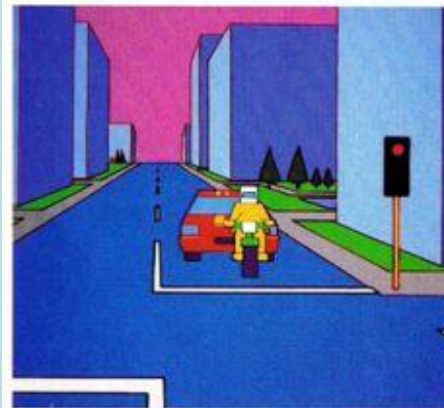
- 1) Drivers fail to give way to a motorcycle
- 2) Drivers cut in front of, or across the path of a motorcycle at an intersection.
- 3) Drivers tailgate a motorcycle.
- 4) Drivers U-Turn in front of a motorcycle.



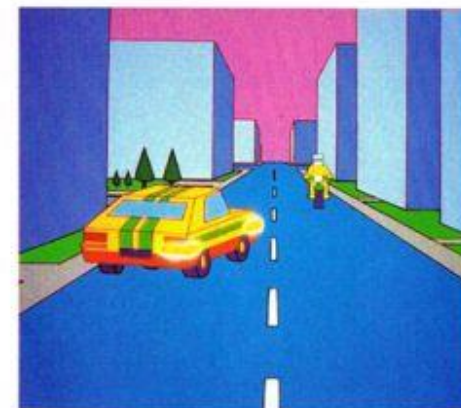
1 Intersections. Vehicles from different streets meeting at right angles.



2 Intersections. Vehicles in the same street, either meeting head on or as one does a right hand turn.



3 Intersections. Vehicles in the same street in a side swipe or rear-end collision.



4 Mid-block. Vehicles colliding head on, or as one does a U-turn, or as one is overtaking.

**DRIVERS USUALLY DON'T MEAN TO PLACE A MOTORCYCLE RIDER IN DANGER, BUT SOMETIMES THEY DO**

**AT INTERSECTIONS ALWAYS USE A HEAD CHECK TO LOOK OUT FOR MOTORCYCLES**

# **MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

**SHARE THE ROADS – UNDERSTAND FILTERING IS LEGAL**

**MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ARE  
LEGITIMATE ROAD USERS**

Riders ask drivers to appreciate that Motorcycles have as much right to use the road as any other vehicle.

Road rules, such as **FILTERING** make roads safer for motorcycle riders.

Filtering is legal, please don't get angry when a motorcycle overtakes your car in slow moving or stationary traffic.

Filtering improves traffic flow for all road users, not just motorcycles



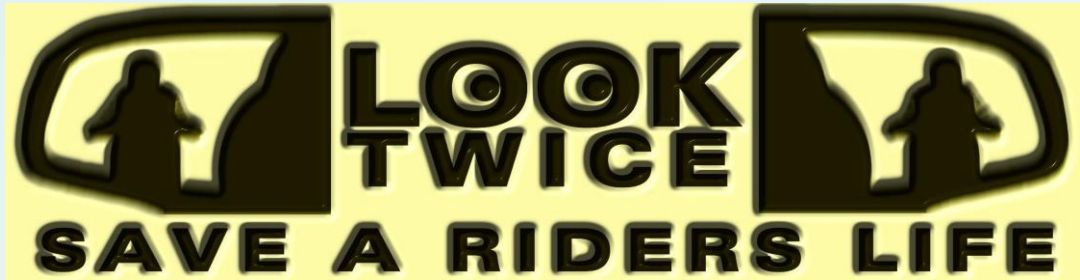
Filtering is when a motorcycle moves past stationary or slow moving vehicles safely at a speed of 30km/h or less.

**DON'T BE ANGRY  
MOTORCYCLE FILTERING IS LEGAL**

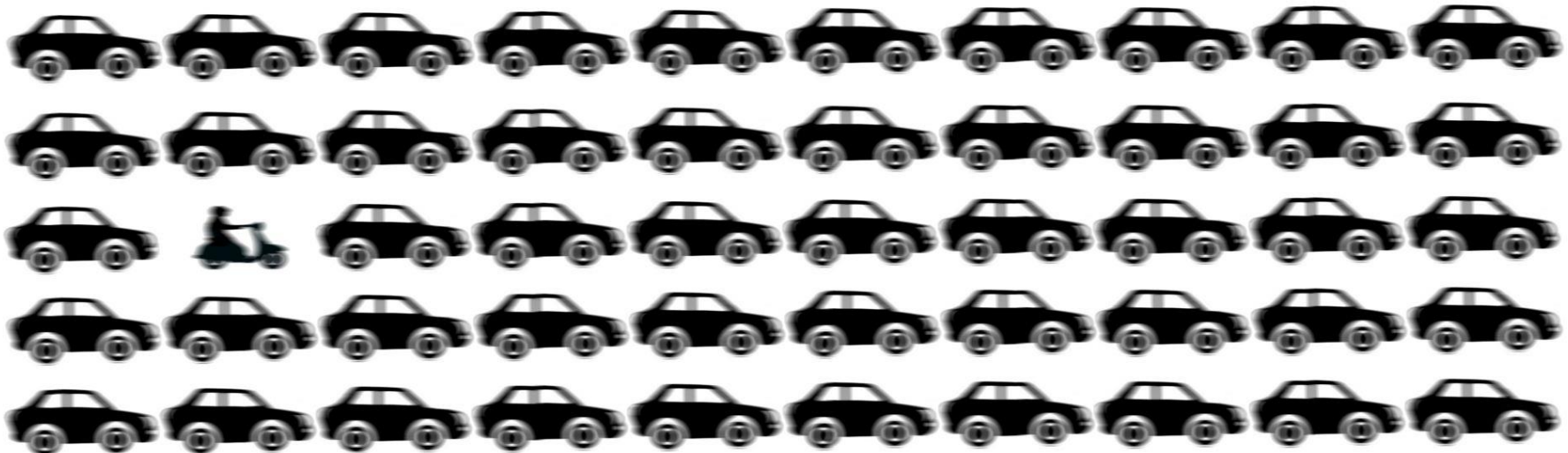
# MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS

**LOOK TWICE – MOTORCYCLES ARE NOT EASILY SEEN**

Motorcycles represent just 4% of registered vehicles on Victorian roads, this means a driver is typically 25 times more likely to see another vehicle on the road, than they are a motorcycle, which will also be harder to see. **LOOK TWICE** particularly at intersections.



**Please look and look again.  
A motorcycle may be in a blind spot,  
unable to be seen in your rear view  
or side mirrors**

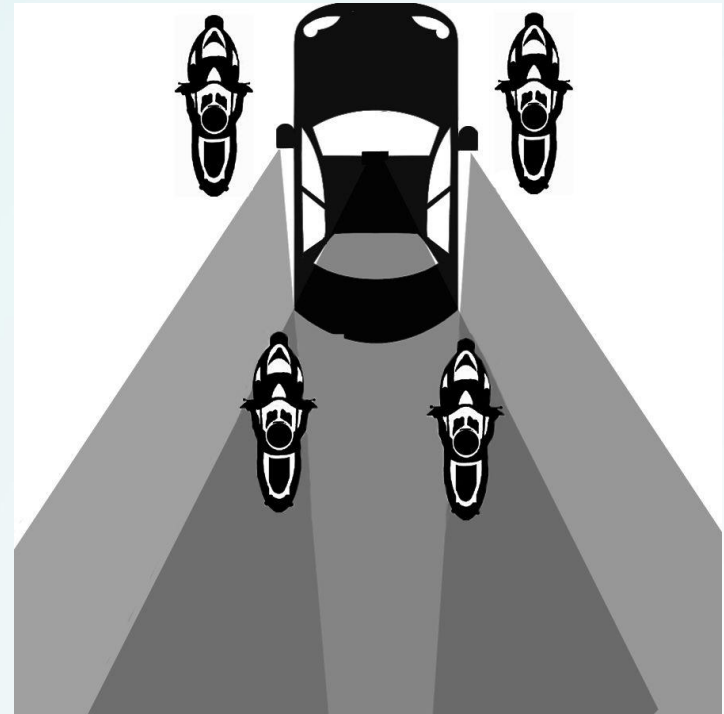


# MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS

## LOOK INTO BLIND SPOTS BY USING HEAD CHECKS

- Most motorcycle injuries and fatalities involve another vehicle
- The Driver is usually to blame
- The driver usually says they didn't see the motorcycle
- Look out for motorcycles and try to be more motorcycle aware
- Sometimes a motorcycle may be in a blind spot, take another look with a head check.
- Head checks help drivers see motorcycles in, or near blind spots

A head check, is turning the head and looking over the shoulder both ways, to look into blind spots



**THE MOTORCYCLES ABOVE MAY NOT BE SEEN WITHOUT A DRIVER HEAD CHECK**



# MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS

## AVOID DISTRACTIONS – KEEP EYES ON THE ROAD

It's a busy world! Driver distractions are many, including touching and talking on a telephone, sending and reading text messages, using navigation systems, adjusting music, audio, climate and other controls.

Other distractions include talking with passengers, controlling children and / or pets, eating, drinking, smoking.

All of the above will take a drivers eyes off the road, hands off the steering wheel and increase the risk of a serious accident,

**Please pull over to do them!**



**Taking your eyes off the road for just 2 seconds doubles the risk of an accident**

**At 60kmh a vehicle will travel 67 metres in just 4 seconds, that's the length of about 15 cars**



# MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS

## PLEASE NEVER TAILGATE A MOTORCYCLE



It is said, if a driver arrives at the same spot as the car in front in 2 seconds or later, this is a safe following distance.

When following a **MOTORCYCLE** this rule does not apply, it is nowhere near enough.

Drivers should leave at least a 4 second space when following a motorcycle.

**NEVER TAILGATE A MOTORCYCLE  
IT CAN OFTEN BE FATAL**

**TAILGATING IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS FOR MOTORCYCLES**  
Please never tailgate a motorcycle because if you do a collision is more likely than it is with a car, so stay further back.

**WHY?** Because the stopping distance of a motorcycle is 35% less than that of a car.

You may not see a brake light when a motorcycle is slowing.

**WHY?** Because riders use gears, as well as brakes to slow down.

The consequences of tailgating a motorcycle are far worse than rear ending a car and could kill or seriously injure the rider.

# **MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

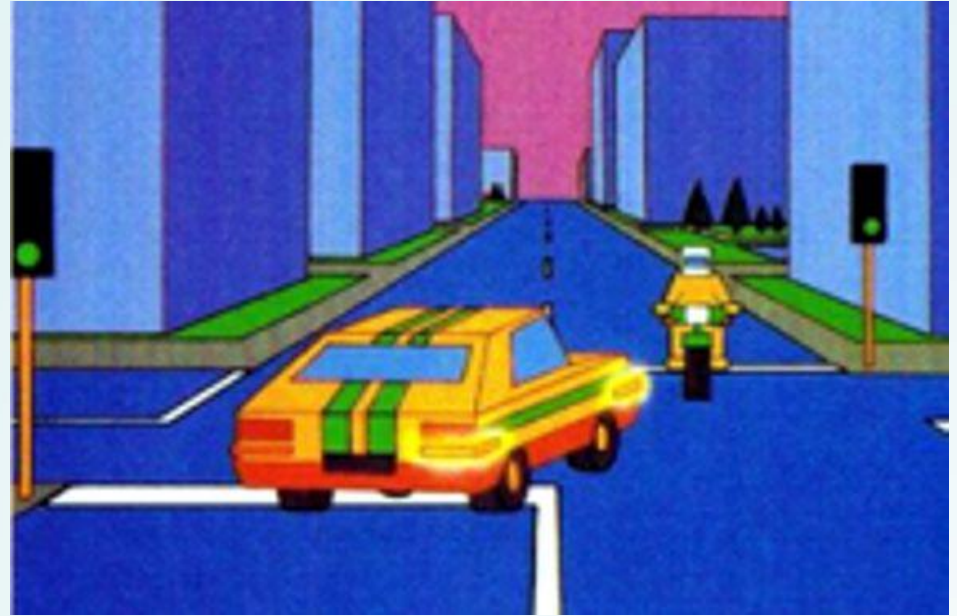
**LOOK ONCE, LOOK TWICE AND DON'T BE A SMIDSY**

## **AVOID COLLIDING WITH MOTORCYCLES WHEN TURNING RIGHT AT AN INTERSECTION**

Drivers may be surprised to learn one of the most common causes of collisions is when a car turns right at an intersection and into the path of a motorcycle.

Incredibly, many right turn collisions occur even when the intersection has traffic signals and the rider has right of way.

The most common excuse for this type of collision is SMIDSY. The driver saying:  
“Sorry I Didn’t See You Mate”.

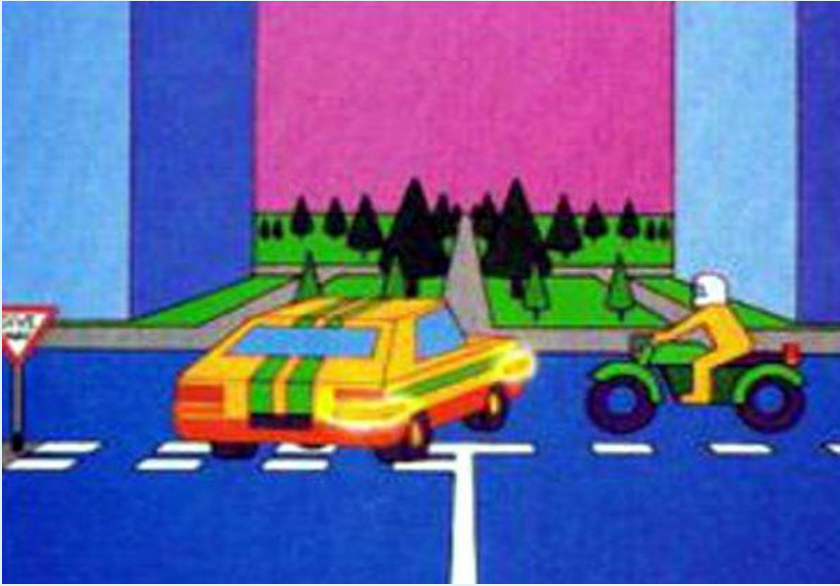


Drivers should never take a chance and try to beat a motorcycle travelling through an intersection. The consequences can be fatal.

**SMIDSY IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT  
SEEING A MOTORCYCLE**

# MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS

## PLEASE GIVE WAY TO MOTORCYCLES



A driver faces a give way sign, but makes an error and does not give way to an oncoming motorcycle. Even if a collision does not occur, the rider can lose control attempting to avoid the vehicle that did not give way

**DRIVERS SHOULDN'T FORCE A RIDER INTO AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION BY NOT GIVING WAY IF REQUIRED TO DO SO**

**FAILING TO GIVE WAY TO A MOTORCYCLE CAN BE FATAL**

Drivers should always give way to motorcycles when required. Don't force a rider into an impossible situation.

**WHY?** When a motorcycle rider is forced to brake too hard in an emergency when attempting to avoid a collision, the motorcycles wheels can lock up. The rider then loses control and comes off his bike, or alternatively collides with the other vehicle.

It's a no win situation for the rider or the driver.

# **MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

## **NEVER U-TURN IN FRONT OF A MOTORCYCLE**

**RIDERS HAVE NO CHANCE WHEN A CAR U-TURNS IN FRONT OF THEM**

Drivers may be shocked to learn that a car performing a U-Turn in front of a motorcycle, is one of the most common causes of motorcycle accidents.

Invariably 1 of 2 things happens, the car collides with the motorcycle, or the rider brakes too hard to avoid the collision, losing control of the motorcycle, both rider and motorcycle ending up who knows where on the road.

Please, never U-Turn in front of a motorcycle.



**Drivers should never U-Turn in front of a motorcycle. This is a riders worst nightmare. The outcome is rarely good.**

**NEVER U-TURN IN FRONT OF  
A MOTORCYCLE**



# IMPROVING OBSERVATION AND AWARENESS SKILLS

## MOST ROAD USERS CAN DO IT

### SUDDENLY!

Suddenly the car stopped, suddenly the lights changed, suddenly the child ran out, suddenly the motorcycle appeared.

“Suddenly” is a word heard all too often after an accident. It’s a word all road users often use to explain the cause of an “accident”.

The reality is something was not seen early enough to allow appropriate action and prevent the accident.

### OBSERVATION SKILLS

By working to improve observation & awareness, all road users can reduce the possibility of needing to use the word “suddenly”.

By following observation rules and practicing skills, the eyes and brain can be used more effectively and efficiently. Looking at the right things will increase effectiveness, looking more carefully will increase efficiency. It is possible to become a better, more aware driver.

### SOME RULES OF OBSERVATION\*

#### 1 - Look well ahead

Practice looking at what vehicles three or four ahead of yours are doing.

#### 2 - Don't believe all you see

Expect the unexpected, don't assume drivers around you will follow the rules.

#### 3 - Keep those eyes moving

Move your eyes around, don't fix them on one thing for much more than 2 seconds.

#### 4 - Use eyes to scan around

Don't just look straight ahead. Scan all around, including side and rear mirrors.

#### 5 - See and be seen

Avoid travelling in another vehicles blind spot and always make eye contact with the other vehicles rider/driver if possible.

\*These are just 5 of many exercises which can help improve observation and awareness.

# **A NEW APPROACH TO MOTORCYCLE RIDER SAFETY**

## **THE WRAP UP**

**THIS NEW APPROACH AIMS TO INFORM DRIVERS AND PROMOTE IMPROVED ROAD SAFETY FOR MOTORCYCLE RIDERS, BY:**

- **Assisting drivers to better understand the importance of sharing roads**
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