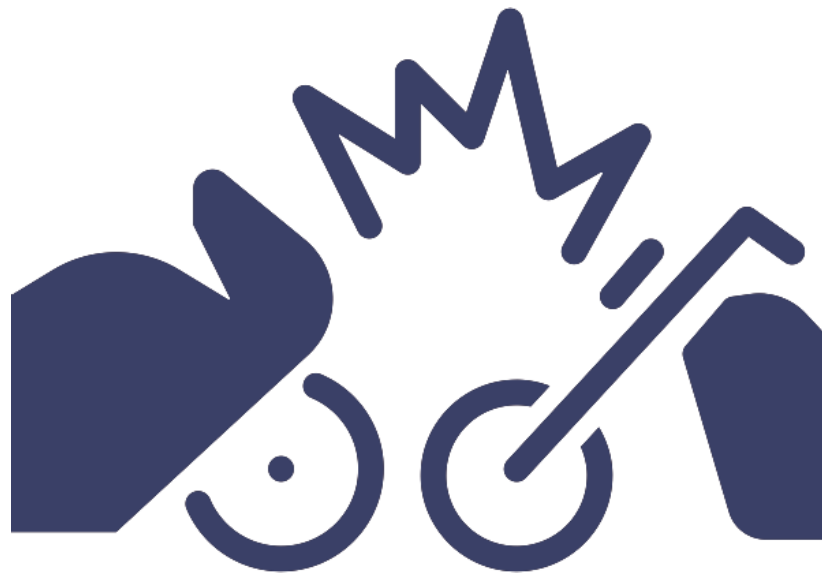


# THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF

## Motorcycle Accidents **and How to Avoid Them**



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# THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF Motorcycle Accidents and How to Avoid Them

Motorcycles are popular for both transportation and recreation. Though safety gear has improved over the past several decades, motorcycle enthusiasts are still relatively unprotected when out on the open road. Safety gear can help to reduce the severity of injuries from an accident in some cases, but the fact remains that 90% of motorcycle accidents result in injury or death.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, more than 2,200 motorcycle accidents happen in Missouri each year, approximately doubling since the late 1990s. Here are some of the most common types of motorcycle accidents and some tips on how to avoid them:



## Distracted Driving Crashes

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One of the most common form of distracted driving is when a driver uses their cellphone while operating their vehicle, but anything that diverts the driver's attention from the road constitutes distracted driving. It only takes a second or two of having your attention diverted from the road for disaster to strike.

### How to Avoid

The best way to avoid distracted driving accidents is to not allow yourself to become distracted when driving (or in this case, riding). When it comes to the other driver, things get a little more difficult. There isn't much that you can do to keep other drivers from being distracted on the road. It best to remain vigilant at all times when riding your motorcycle, so that if someone else is operating their motor vehicle unsafely, you can take defensive actions to avoid being involved in an accident.



## Blind Spot Accidents

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Because motorcycles are much smaller than cars and trucks they often disappear into other motorists' blind spots. This is dangerous because if the driver of the car or truck decides to change lanes or turn, they can't account for what they can't see.

### How to Avoid

Motorcyclists should learn what the common blind spots for different sizes of cars and trucks are so that they can position themselves defensively when riding among other vehicles.

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## Failure to Yield Accidents

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Yield signs are like yellow lights, they're intended to tell motorists to slow down, and proceed with caution. Sadly, people often ignore these signs and drive right through them, or worse, speed up.

### How to Avoid

The best way to avoid failure to yield accidents is to yield in all appropriate situations and be aware of your surroundings when traveling on roads in which other motorists are meant to yield before merging.



## Intersection Accidents

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A common cause of motorcycle accidents occurs when a motorist attempting to make a left turn fails to yield to a motorcyclist who is going straight through the same intersection. This is due to the fact that many motorists are used to only looking out for other cars and trucks and tend to not notice motorcyclists at first.

### How to Avoid

There are two things you can do to help prevent intersection accidents from occurring. First, you can wear bright colors to make yourself more visible to other motorists on the road. Second, you can approach every intersection carefully.



## Drunk Driving Accidents

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It's dangerous to mix alcohol with driving, but it's even more dangerous for motorcyclists. Alcohol is a contributing factor in two out of every five motorcycle fatalities.

### How to Avoid

Do not operate your motorcycle under the influence of alcohol, and if you're traveling during late-night hours when there is a higher probability of drunk drivers being on the road, take extra precautions and stay extra alert of other vehicles on the road.

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## Speeding Accidents

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Many performance sportbikes are built to go fast, and even cruisers often can do incredible speeds. Even though it might be exciting to go fast on your bike, it's also extremely dangerous. Leather protective clothing and a helmet can only do so much, and remember, if you're involved in a crash while going fast, the accident will be that much more severe. Speeding accounts for more than 30% of motorcycle fatalities.

### How to Avoid

Don't excessively speed on your motorcycle. If you can't beat the desire to go fast on your bike, bring it to a controlled environment like a racetrack. While going fast on a racetrack is still dangerous, it's monitored, regulated, and emergency services are usually on site to help in the event of a crash.



## Taking Turns Too Fast

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Making a turn on a motorcycle is something that needs to be learned. It's not as simple as turning a steering wheel. Even taking a turn too fast in a car can be disastrous, but on a motorcycle, where you don't have two tons of metal surrounding you as protection, it can be even worse.

### How to Avoid

Make sure to practice riding a motorcycle in a safe environment before taking it out on the open road. Practicing at slow speeds and on grass (if you have access to a large yard or field) will minimize the injuries if you fall when learning. When you do begin riding on the road, take turns at slower speeds until you know exactly how your bike handles and until you are comfortable making turns closer to the speed limit.



## Road and Weather Conditions

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Weather conditions affect all motorists. Snow and ice can make us slide and rain can cause hydroplaning. Combine either of those with wind, and you've really got the potential for disaster. Gravel, potholes, and uneven surfaces can present a unique danger to motorcyclists. If a car hits a pothole, it will likely jostle a bit, but it's rare that a pothole will cause a car accident. On the other hand, if a motorcycle hits a pothole, it can send the rider over the handlebars and result in severe injury and potentially death.

### How to Avoid

Unless your motorcycle is your only means of transportation, avoid using your motorcycle on days that call for inclement weather. To avoid hazardous road conditions, you must remain attentive of the road in front of you and keep your eyes open for potential hazards.

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## Sharing Lanes

When a group of motorcyclists ride together they often share lanes. After all, motorcycles are smaller than cars, and more than one can fit into a single lane. The problem is that sharing lanes can cause a problem when trying to avoid road obstacles or when another motorist enters the lane.

### How to Avoid

There is only one way to avoid the potential dangers of sharing lanes, don't share lanes when riding with a group.



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If you were injured in an accident that was caused by another driver, you should contact a personal injury lawyer to discuss your legal options. For more information on what to do if you were involved in an accident, please contact The Pottenger Law Firm or visit our website today for a free consultation.