

LivSafe is a conscious safety initiative of Liberty Videocon to help people live safer, secure lives through an education series of proactive and preventative suggestions in the safety arena. This document does not purport to promote any product, directly, or indirectly.

Measures to augment proper and safe ways of driving two wheelers

Overview

Driving two wheelers in a safe and sound manner is critical in avoiding accidents that can cause damage, injuries or even fatalities. It involves following discipline while driving and strict adherence to a range of traffic ethics to minimise the chances of a mishap on the road.

We at Liberty Videocon General Insurance value the importance of safe and disciplined two wheeler driving for preventing accidents; and intend to suggest some useful measures to augment the same. We sincerely hope that the measures suggested in this document will help follow better practices when it comes to safe two wheeler driving.



Things to follow while driving your two wheeler

Before You Drive - Have a Clear Head

Make sure you have a clear head before deciding to operate a two wheeler. Alcohol and certain drugs, both illegal and legal, can severely impair your driving skills. If you are tired, don't risk yours and others safety on the highway by trying to drive.

Plan Ahead

Allow yourself plenty of extra time to reach your destination and anticipate emergencies or traffic jams. By allowing extra time you can be more relaxed when operating your vehicle and thereby cut down on the incidences of road rage.

Respect Other Drivers

- Courteous driving is a key to reducing traffic crashes
- Give proper signals well ahead of time to let others know what you are going to do
- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you
- Do not weave in and out of traffic
- A yellow light means slow down and be prepared to stop
- Give the right of way to emergency vehicles

Choosing Eye Protection

Eyes, the most sensitive sense organ, are exposed to the pollution and swift wind that may cause irreparable damage to them. Therefore, protection of eyes is to be kept in mind while riding a motorbike. The use of a helmet is the best mode to keep particulate matter (like dust and dirt), rain insects and debris away from your eyes. Besides providing safety to your head and face, wearing helmet is also mandated by law, and non-adherence can be fined by traffic police. Wearing a face shield is also advised if you wear glasses to prevent them from being blown off.

In Heavy Traffic

Try to stay out of other motorists' blind spots. Two wheeler riders always need to anticipate that they are invisible to everyone else. Desist from weaving in and out of traffic. If this is done, drivers cannot predict where you are going to be next and might even get nervous and swerve into you. Double check the passing lane before you pass. Pass only in instances where it's legal and safe.

Positioning Yourself

- A two wheeler is in itself a dangerous vehicle to be driven. Balancing is an art that has to be mastered. Proper positioning is also a related point which should be ensured.
- To make motorbike riding safe, it is advisable that the handgrips are held firmly so that you do not lose control in case you happen to skid or have to stretch while driving.
- Try not to sit at a distance from the handle, as it will impede quick reaction when you need to veer away in the opposite direction or make other directional changes. An erect body while driving helps in better driving.
- Your feet should be in the perfect position while driving a motorbike. The best position would be a firm footing on the foot pegs. While ensuring that balance is maintained, it would also be near to controls, and make life easier and safer while driving through crowded city streets.

Safety Tips for augmenting safe driving of two wheelers and avoiding accidents

Riding a bike is fun, but also a risky activity. These risks can be minimised / avoided by following a few safety norms which are laid hereunder:

- **Get in Gear:** A helmet, eye protection, boots and gloves best protect you in case of an accident. Be sure to wear them every time you ride.



- **Get Insured:** Make sure you and your vehicle are both properly licensed before you head out. Get insured so that you and your pillion are adequately protected.



- **Ride Defensively:** Most of two wheeler accidents involve collisions with automobiles. They happen because the driver of the car does not see the two wheeler. That is why, it pays to be aware of what the other vehicle operators are doing - or might do - when you ride. Be extra aware of drivers waiting to turn left across your path at intersections since that is the most susceptible.



- **Keep Your Distance:** Don't ever stop directly behind another vehicle. If you leave enough space, you will be able to manoeuvre around the vehicle in front of you in case an approaching vehicle doesn't see you and can't stop in time.

- **Don't Drink and Drive**

- **Don't Use Mobile Phone while Driving**

- **Beware of Sudden Pedestrian Intrusion**

- **Never Indulge in Racing**

- **Have Your Bike Checked Regularly:** Follow the recommended service schedules for your bike and have all repairs done at an authorised dealer / service station. More so, always check your bike's tyres.



- **Learn to Share:** Having someone as pillion rider is a big responsibility. After all, weight has a tremendous effect on handling. So before you give people a ride, instruct them on proper riding techniques and make sure they have appropriate protective gear. Also, having more than one pillion rider is prohibited by law, and is a punishable offence. This is valid even in the case of small children being carried as extra pillions.



- **Brakes:** Remember to check your brakes every time you take your bike for a drive. In the rainy season, water goes into the brake shoes and brakes may not work - so drive slowly. This may also happen at steep slopes - don't speed up at the slopes.



- **Air Pressure:** Always remember to check the pressure when going on a long drive. This helps in less wear and tear for both tyres and the bike, giving more fuel efficiency.



Safe Drive

Brake Properly

A two wheeler has two brakes, in which the front is operated by the right hand and the rear by the right foot or left hand. Needless to say, both are needed to stop effectively. However, in emergency, or even otherwise, you should apply both the brakes simultaneously, not one at a time. If you apply the front brake first, it will assist you in slowing down, and immediately the rear one can be applied. Though there is no set rule for applying brakes, it will help if you squeeze the front brake first, and then press down the rear brake, with increasing pressure. Brake gently and with caution when you need to take a turn while braking.

Happy and Safe Driving

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