

Location\_\_\_\_\_Trainer\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

## **DEFENSIVE DRIVING BASICS CYCLISTS AND MOTORCYCLISTS**

Bicyclists and motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on the road as other drivers. Because cyclists are much less protected from injury than other traffic, the careful driver must take extra precautions to avoid colliding with them.

### **Motorcycles**

Follow these tips to share the road safely with motorcyclists:

- When driving behind a motorcycle, allow a four-second following distance. The extra time also gives you extra leeway in case the motorcyclist falls.
- When changing lanes or turning, check your blind spots carefully. Being small, motorcycles are often completely missed.
- Remember that in some states motorcycles can legally travel between lanes. Be extra alert for fast-moving motorcycles between lanes when you switch lanes in heavy, slow traffic.
- Be aware of the road hazards such as potholes, loose gravel or slippery surfaces, that can cause motorcycles to change speed and direction suddenly.

### **Bicycles**

Because bicyclists are slow-moving, hard to see and extremely likely to be injured in a collision, we must take special care in driving around them. Follow these safety tips for sharing the road with bicyclists:

- Remember that bicyclists have the same rights to the roadway as other drivers. Be ready for a bicyclist to move into the flow of traffic if necessary to turn left, pass another bicycle or avoid an obstacle.
- When passing a bicycle, wait until it is safe to do so without crowding the bicycle.
- When parked by the road, do not open the car door without looking for other vehicles, including bicycles and motorcycles.
- Know the cyclist's signals: left hand out for a left turn, left hand down for a stop, and left hand up or right hand out for a right turn.
- Be especially alert for bicycles on winding rural roads that may attract recreational cyclists.