

Motorcycle Riding Safety Tips for Young Riders

Spring is when many Washington motorcycle riders hit the roads in force. Cars have not seen many motorcycles on the roads for the better part of six months, so extra caution when around traffic is warranted, especially for young and inexperienced riders.

Young riders haven't had time on the motorcycle to develop good riding skills, so hazards on the road can be more challenging to safely maneuver.

Motorcycle Hazards that Young Riders Face

In general, a variety of factors, including weather, traffic conditions, distractions, drunk driving, lane splitting, speeding, and vehicle and roadway defects can cause motorcycle accidents. All motorcycles are particularly vulnerable when turning left across oncoming traffic - a situation that causes many accidents. Cars often claim they never saw the motorcycle coming before they turned left right in front of the motorcycle. It's dumbfounding and frustrating for all riders!



Speeding reduces the time that a rider has to react to hazards.

Young riders also face specific hazards, like reckless driving - not uncommon with teens, regardless of the vehicles they choose. Speeding is a concern for all young motorcyclists and year after year is a top cause of accidents. Speeding reduces the time that a rider has to react to hazards, whether they are other vehicles, roadway defects, animals and other hazards.

Tips for Safe Motorcycle Riding

Washington requires riders to complete a basic motorcycle safety course to qualify for a learning permit. There are also



intermediate and advanced classes that young riders should take to gain more riding skills after completing the basic course.

Washington requires all motorcyclists to wear a DOT approved helmet. A proper fitting full head helmet is a must for young riders. Eye protection is also required for motorcyclists, and it's a good idea to have a full-face shield on the helmet. Proper clothing like leather, heavy denim, or a riding suit and gloves reduce the risk of road rash in an accident. Heavy leather boots are important to protect the feet and ankles.



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Young riders be aware and have a game plan for dealing with hazards they may face - speeding, left turns, negligent drivers, road conditions, etc. The more knowledge you have and a plan in mind in case such hazards are encountered can mean the difference between successfully avoiding a crash or not.

Other Negligent Drivers

Of course, young riders taking all of these precautions does not eliminate all risks. Some drivers may be negligent and cause an accident.

If someone else causes an accident, it's best to call us right away to discuss your options and decide if you need the professional help of **MaxPower Law attorneys**. Contact our office at **425-970-9300** for a Free consultation.

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April Events Calendar

The MaxPower Law team is hoping local motorcycle events will begin again this year!

Please check our website - www.maxpowerlaw.com - and our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/maxpowerlaw - as we receive updates about local events over the next few months.

Here are some events that are currently scheduled:

July 24-25: Rainier Rally in Buckley, WA

Put on by Resurrection MC, this event is aimed at raising funds for the Tribe of Judah Dental Van. It's an old school bike rally put on by an old school club. There will be food, beer, bike games, wet t-shirt contest, live music and camping.

September 16-19: Touratech Rally in Plain, WA.

This event focuses on dual sport motorcycles with many daily ride

options for exploring nearby forests using logging roads. Generally there is food, vendors, educational presentations and camping.

September 25: Vintage Motorcycle Expo in Lynden, WA at NW Washington Fairgrounds 10 am - 3 pm.

September 26: Oyster Run in Anacortes, WA.

Largest motorcycle rally in Northwest. There will be food, beer gardens, lots of vendors, motorcycle stunt team, live music and oysters of course! www.oysterrun.org

October 2-4: Northwest Nitro Nationals Pro Hillclimb near Sunnyside, WA.

This is a favorite event of ours as spectators. Watching dirt bikes attempt to summit a massive dirt hill/mountain is more fun than words alone can describe. Usually you can find food, vendors, beer garden, camping and lots of racing for all levels.

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