

# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Motorcycling can be fun, economical and safe but never risk free. Riders are among our most vulnerable road users.

On the road, riders are less protected than drivers and have a greater chance of being killed or injured.

You can become a safer, low-risk rider by learning some important skills. A low-risk rider has:

- speed management and road positioning skills;
- good observation and understanding of the road environment and rides to the conditions; and
- decision making and hazard perception skills; and is aware of other road users.

## Licensing

To ride on public roads in the Northern Territory you must be licensed and have the correct licence class.

To ride a motorcycle you must hold a class R licence. Penalties apply for riding without a licence.

It is strongly recommended that you attend a Motorcycle Education Training and Licensing Program (METAL) course. The METAL courses are competency based and provide valuable training for both learner and advanced riders.

Contact the Motor Vehicle Registry on freecall 1300 654 628 for more information on METAL courses.

### Quick Fact

On average over the last 10 years (2006-2015), five motorcyclists die and 65 are seriously injured each year.

## Safety

As a motorcyclist, there are several actions you can take to better protect yourself on the road.

When thinking about a motorcycle it is important to:

- know what you want to use it for – touring, weekends, everyday commuting, offroad or for sporting pursuits;
- ride a motorcycle that suits you and that you can physically handle; and
- check there are no fluid leaks, oil and water levels are correct and to get your motorcycle regularly checked and serviced.

When thinking about your clothing it is important to:


- wear an approved motorcycle helmet when riding that is securely fitted;
- wear bright coloured protective clothing to help other road users to see you better;
- wear a leather or non-leather alternative jacket that has a built-in shoulder, elbow and back protection that is abrasion-resistant;
- wear pants that are comfortable with built-in reinforcement;
- wear eye protection with open-faced helmets when riding without a visor; and
- wear gloves that fit comfortably, are reinforced, padded and that improve your grip.

Correct protective clothing will reduce the severity of injuries sustained in a crash.

As a driver it is vital you stay alert, check your blind spots for motorcyclists and acknowledge riders when sharing the road.

## Further Information

For further information contact Road Safety on:

 1800 720 144

 [roadsafety@nt.gov.au](mailto:roadsafety@nt.gov.au)

