COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Motorcycle Safety

Messaging, Content and Resources from CDOT



In 2025, there were 149 motorcycle fatalities on Colorado roads, a 9.6% decrease from 2024. Of these riders lost, 66 (44%) were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. Motorcycle fatalities accounted for over a fifth (21%) of all traffic deaths in the state last year.

This is, frankly, bad news. But the good news? We're in the driver's seat when it comes to reversing this trend.

Please join us to raise awareness, promote safety and reduce motorcycle crashes on our roadways. Feel free to use or adapt these materials as you see fit. For any questions or other support, please reach out to Tamara Rollison, CDOT Communications Manager, at tamara.rollison@state.co.us.

Thank you for your commitment to safety. With your help, we can save lives on Colorado roadways.

Newsletter Articles

Wish you were here: Motorcycle Safety Awareness

Our roads can be risky. We've all likely thought about our own mortality and what our absence might feel like to a loved one. "What if I die?" "What if my loved one dies?" Or for those who *have* lost loved ones, "I wish they were here."

While most of us can cast these thoughts aside, for motorcyclists, these thoughts can loom as a constant fear each time they ride. Motorcyclists are 28 times more likely to be killed in a crash than passenger vehicle occupants. And right now in Colorado, motorcyclist fatalities are among the highest in the state's history.



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The good news? We're in the driver's seat when it comes to reversing these concerning trends by prioritizing caution and safety on the road.

CDOT offers the following safety tips and reminders for drivers of vehicles:

- Look twice, save a life. Crashes between cars and motorcycles often happen when a car pulls onto a roadway and fails to see a motorcycle. So, if you are preparing to cross traffic or turn left, take a second look for motorcycles — they can be hard to see.
- Scan the road for motorcycles before changing lanes or turning. Be aware of motorcycles in your surroundings.
- Don't tailgate motorcycles. Give them plenty of space to brake in case of an emergency.
- Check blind spots before changing lanes or merging, especially in heavy traffic.
- Avoid distractions, such as phones or anything else that takes your eyes off the road.

And for motorcyclists, CDOT is sharing the following tips and reminders:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Do not ride if you've been drinking or taking any drugs.
- Be predictable — signal your intentions and be aware of your surroundings.
- Ride defensively — be prepared for other drivers to make mistakes.
- Invest in your safety by taking a motorcycle safety course. Visit comost.com to find courses offered through the Colorado State Patrol.
- No lane splitting — it is illegal in Colorado. Late filtering became legal in 2024, which allows motorcyclists to ride between stopped vehicles.
- Wear high-visibility personal protective gear such as boots, gloves, CE-rated abrasion-resistant clothing or even an air bag vest or jacket.
- Observe all traffic laws and obey the speed limit.

Let's reflect on the 149 motorcycle riders who left behind shattered hearts in 2025. They left their loved ones with a sentiment no one ever wishes to express: "Wish you were here." By riding and driving responsibly, we not only safeguard ourselves but also spare our loved ones from heart-wrenching consequences. Ride and drive safely — for your own sake, and for the cherished souls who long for your return.

What you need to know: Colorado's new motorcycle lane filtering law

In 2024, Colorado passed a new law allowing motorcyclists to pass between vehicles stopped on the roadway.

Lane filtering is not the same as lane splitting. Lane filtering allows motorcyclists to safely navigate through stopped traffic traveling in the same direction as the rider. Lane splitting, which remains illegal, involves riding between lanes of moving vehicles.



Five rules must be followed to filter:

1. If a rider wants to pass, traffic must be at a complete stop.
2. The lane must be wide enough to fit the vehicle and motorcycle while passing.
3. The motorcycle must go 15 mph or less.
4. The rider must pass safely and control the motorcycle.
5. The rider must pass on the left and not enter the oncoming traffic lane.

The new law could save lives

Colorado's new lane filtering law could save motorcyclists' lives. Lane filtering reduces the risk of motorcyclists being rear-ended by a car or truck. Collisions from behind can cause serious injury or kill motorcycle riders.

Motorcyclists: filter and ride safely

Riders should always prioritize safety and be mindful of their surroundings. It is often impossible to predict the actions of other vehicles. Motorcyclists should always ride sober, wear protective gear, and stay focused on the road. Colorado law requires a valid motorcycle license or a motorcycle endorsement on your existing driver's license to legally operate a motorcycle on public roads.

Share the road: What other vehicle drivers need to know

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Drivers should understand that motorcycle riders are more exposed and vulnerable to unexpected road hazards. Lane filtering is one way for motorcyclists to protect themselves.

Treat riders with courtesy as they practice lane filtering.

For more information and a full list of frequently asked questions, visit codot.gov/lanefiltering.

Lane Filtering

On April 4, 2024, Gov. Jared Polis signed Senate Bill 24-079 into law, permitting motorcycles to pass between vehicles stopped on the roadway. The law became effective on Aug. 7, 2024. To raise awareness, CDOT is conducting focused outreach to increase both driver and rider understanding of lane filtering, distinguish it from lane splitting and promote safe practices.

Audio Files

- CDOT-produced 15- and 30-second PSAs available for download and use on your platforms.

Colorado State Patrol YouTube Video

CSP produced a 45-second video explaining the "5 Rules of Filtering." The video can be found here. We encourage you to share it within your networks and on your social platforms.

Access the complete Motorcycle Lane Filtering Toolkit here.



Social Media Posts

You are welcome to share the following social media posts to help spread the word. A folder of website, newsletter and social media graphics is available for use. Click here to view and download graphics from our assets folder.

Facebook / Instagram / X
Motorcycle fatalities in #Colorado are at a record high. Ride carefully, ride defensively, ride as your life depends on it. #MotorcycleSafety
⚠️ Attention, motorcyclists! Your safety matters. Remember these crucial tips: ● Always wear a helmet — it reduces the likelihood of fatal injuries by 37%. ● Observe traffic laws and obey the speed limit. ● Ride within your capabilities. ● Be predictable, signal your intentions, and stay aware of your surroundings. ● Stay sober when riding. ● Ride defensively and expect other drivers' mistakes. Make every ride a safe one! 🏍️💨 #MotorcycleSafety #RideResponsibly
In 2025, 149 motorcyclists died on Colorado roads, leaving their loved ones with a sentiment we all hope to never express: "Wish you were here." Their absence serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of motorcycle safety — whether you drive on two wheels or four. Ride carefully. Your life depends on it. #MotorcycleSafety #RideResponsibly #WishYouWereHere
Whether your vehicle has two wheels or four — let's remember that motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable road users. They face a 28x higher risk of death in a crash than car occupants. As motorcycle fatalities are at an all-time high in Colorado, we all must heighten our awareness, enhance our commitment to safety, and do our part to prevent tragedies. #SharetheRoad #WatchForMotorcycles
In 2024, Colorado legalized lane filtering, allowing motorcycles to slowly pass stopped vehicles in traffic. However, don't confuse lane filtering with lane splitting, which remains illegal and involves riding between lanes of vehicles that are moving. Know the laws. Ride safer. Learn more at codot.gov/lanefiltering. #MotorcycleSafety #ShareTheRoad
❗ Reminder ❗ Lane filtering is legal in Colorado. It allows motorcycles to pass between stopped vehicles in traffic. This helps motorcyclists avoid being struck from behind as they sit in traffic. For more information, visit codot.gov/lanefiltering. #MotorcycleSafety #ShareTheRoad
Motorcyclists were involved in over 2,500 crashes in #Colorado in 2024. Rear-end collisions are particularly dangerous for riders. Colorado's new lane filtering law can

save lives by reducing the risk of motorcyclists being rear-ended in traffic. #MotorcycleSafety #ShareTheRoad
Lane filtering is legal in #Colorado and allows motorcycles to slowly pass stopped vehicles — and reduces the risk of rear-end crashes. As motorcyclists exercise lane filtering, they must follow five rules: 1. The vehicles a rider wants to pass must be at a complete stop. 2. The lane must be wide enough to fit the vehicle and motorcycle while passing. 3. The motorcycle must go 15 mph or less. 4. The rider must pass safely and control the motorcycle. 5. The rider must pass on the left and not enter the oncoming traffic lane. Learn more at codot.gov/lanefiltering. #MotorcycleSafety #ShareTheRoad
Lane filtering allows motorcyclists to safely navigate through stopped vehicles at intersections or in stationary traffic. Motorcycles must travel at 15 mph or less and only pass when the lane is wide enough. Passing vehicles that are moving, known as lane splitting, remains illegal in #Colorado. For more information, visit codot.gov/lanefiltering. #MotorcycleSafety #ShareTheRoad

Additional Resources

- CDOT Motorcycle Safety Website
- CDOT Motorcycle Lane Filtering Website
- CDOT Safety Programs Data and Analysis
- NHTSA Motorcycle Safety Website
    - Traffic Safety Marketing Motorcycle Campaign Resources
- Colorado State Patrol MOST Website and Resources