

RI Retreads Guide for Safe Group Motorcycle Rides

DO A PRE-RIDE BIKE CHECK ... Ensure that tires are in good condition and properly inflated, enough fuel, proper engine oil level, brakes, horn and lights are operating properly.

WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (driver & passenger) ... Helmet, boots, long pants, jacket, and gloves are always recommended.

RIDE IN A STAGGERED FORMATION ... (Left, Right, Left formation in lane of travel).

- Minimum of 1 second behind staggered bike (bike ahead of you but on opposite side of lane from you. Remember, each rider “owns” the entire width of his/her lane. Look for the drivers face in his/her mirror. If you can see the driver’s face, the driver can see you.
- Minimum of 2 seconds behind the bike directly in front of you (on your side of the lane).

RIDE AS PART OF THE GROUP ... Don’t lag too far behind. Too large a gap between bikes allows other vehicles to sneak in and divide the group.

KEEP AWARE OF EVERYTHING AROUND YOU ... Maintain a mental “escape route” in case of trouble.

CHANGE LANES ONLY WHEN THE LEADER CHANGES LANES ... The leader will radio the tail for a lane shift. The tail then occupies the desired lane and radios the leader with an OK to shift lanes. Leader then shifts lanes.. Each group member should follow the leader only after doing an individual head check to verify that the lane is actually clear. Remember, each rider is responsible for his/her own ride).

WATCH BIKES AHEAD FOR ANY UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOR ... Keep in mind your safety and the safety of those behind you.

BE CONSIDERATE OF THE RIDER BEHIND YOU ... Be sure he/she is always there and make no turns unless he/she can see you before you turn. If he/she stops, stop also to determine if assistance is needed. Remember, you may have to ride at the end of the line sometime also.

USE FOOT BRAKE, DIRECTIONAL LIGHTS, AND HAND SIGNALS ... Signal slowdowns, stops, turns and objects or dangerous areas in the road.

TO STOP THE QUICKEST ... When tracking straight, use the front brake in addition to gentle and firm pressure of the rear brake. On sand, slippery surfaces and curves, keep off the front brake to prevent slide-out. If the rear brake locks up, hold it until the bike comes to a complete stop to prevent a high-side.

WHEN CAUGHT AT A LIGHT ... Don’t try to jump the light. Remember to be in first gear when stopped with an eye on the rear view mirror and ready to move out. The front of the group will proceed slowly until those caught by the light can catch up.

WHEN TRAVELING SLOWER THAN TRAFFIC ... Pull over to the right and let cars pass. Keep motorists happy and they won’t dislike us.

BE COURTEOUS TO THE GROUP ... Arrive on time with an empty bladder and a full gas tank.