

## Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program Intro

When you see a Biker moving past you quickly, don't take offense or think we are trying to "show off". Ninety five percent of the time we are trying to get out of your "Blind Spot" or taking ourselves out of a potential dangerous situation that has evolved around us. Distancing ourselves from you does not mean we are trying to race, but that we are giving ourselves the edge we need at the moment.

When you hear our horn, don't take offense or think we are trying to aggravate you. All we are doing is letting you know where we are, in relation to you on the road. We are more than likely aware of your inattentiveness to us as you are talking on your cell phone, eating, texting, or involved in some other distracting aspect to your driving. It is important to us and you, that you know we are there.

When you hear our loud pipes, don't become angry and hostile toward us. Some are quite loud, but for some there is a purpose behind being loud. It's about letting you know we are close by and we are constantly hoping that our investment in this accessory will help save our lives. Our pipes are really not about our egos, it's a pride and personalization to our form of transportation.

When you see us in our clothes, don't become fearful or think we are trying to be the "Bad Bikers" of the fifties. Our leather jackets, chaps, gloves, and boots are our protection from the weather and loosing massive amounts of flesh should we go down...nothing more, nothing less. Safety gear is paramount to our riding protection.

We wear patches on our jackets and pins on our vests. These are symbols of pride and honor within our groups, individuals giving back to those who gave. These things bond us as a Brotherhood and Sisterhood among Bikers. Not that we are better than anyone else,

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but that we have the same kind of Nobility and Pride in our accomplishments as you may have in the various aspects of your lives. I guess you could say that our patches and pins are the decals and bumper stickers of our involvement with society and the general public.

When you see us in a restaurant, you don't have to shield your child or feel intimidated. We have family, wives, husbands, children, and loved ones also, just like you do. We smile, laugh, and love the moments we have. We are approachable, and would befriend you if given the opportunity. When you see us in the parking lot, don't convince yourself that we are out to "get you". More than likely, we have just finished a long ride and just taking a break. Or, we may be meeting some bikers for a charity run for children, vets, special needs, or another very worthy cause. It's what we do, it's part of our lives, and we'd be more than welcome to share with you what riding a motorcycle is all about...if you'd only ask.

When you see aggressive riding bikers, don't put us all in the same stereotypical category as those whose behavior and actions would cause you to react in disgust and intolerance. Many of us do not agree with this style of riding either, and we know and understand that human nature tends to blend us all together in the "same group". Most of us don't want that title, and don't deserve it.

When you see a group of bikers on the roadway, give us the courtesy of "Sharing the Road" with you. Please don't move in on a group of bikers riding in formation. This gets us very excited and nervous, especially when it's done with no due regard for our safety. Provide us with your awareness that you know that we are much more

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vulnerable than you. We don't want to challenge you, for all of us are wise enough to know that we'd lose that battle.

Riding a motorcycle takes a lot more thought and concentration than most people will ever come to realize. We handle all the ins and outs of riding, and we are able to do so while riding in heavy, disturbing, and sometimes dangerous traffic. So with all the skills needed to ride a motorcycle, we ask those who are on four wheels to please give us a break. Look to see us, moreover please place your cell phone anywhere but in your hands while driving. Please do not do anything that takes your concentration off of driving your vehicle safely. We all deserve to get home safely, no matter how many wheels we are on.