

Defensive Driving Tips- May 2011

Helmet- This is very important to protect your head from extreme blows that could lead to jarring of the head or even contusions in case of accidents.

Leather jackets- they are important to protect your clothing from dust, as well as protect your body from varying temperature. They can also help in protecting your skin from abrasions and lacerations in case of accidents.

Leather motorcycle gloves- helps you maintain a fine grip of your controls.

Boots- protects your feet from the heat emitted by the engine or other possible wounds encountered. Once you have put on this protective gear, you can now get into the essence of defensive driving. Here are some tips to follow:

1. Estimating a motorcycle's distance and speed is difficult for car drivers.
2. Always slow down when getting into crossroads or before turning or around curves. Even if you have the right of the way, you still need to be extra careful to avoid accidents.
3. Be focused on upcoming curves and get your bike positioned to handle them well in advance.
4. Concentrate on the road ahead of you.
5. Use your head. Brake smart. Use both brakes at the same time, slow and steady.
6. Always check your mirrors before overtaking a vehicle, turning left or right or even switching lanes.
7. Do not forget to use your signal lights. It is easy to get side swept by another car without these lights. Use hand signals also.
8. Always obey traffic signs and rules. Never take for granted the traffic lights, road and hazard signs. Do not beat the red or the yellow light.
9. Do not be too complacent when driving. Some drivers can be reckless, especially when they are drunk. Remember, to avoid accidents, do not drink and drive.
10. The horn is a useful tool in defensive driving and should not be used to aggravate the driver that rudely cut you off. We need to remember to keep our cool no matter how bad the traffic or the drivers are.
11. Learn to give way. Some drivers may be in a hurry at all times that causes them to ride at an increasing speed. Therefore, when you see one, learn to stop and let them pass by. This way, it lessens the chances of collision.
12. If you are thinking about taking defensive driving classes, do not think anymore. Just do it.

Always remember the key to defensive driving is trying to stay away from getting yourself into trouble while driving your motorcycle.