



DEFENSIVE RIDING

DEFINITION OF DEFENSIVE RIDING

196. Defensive riding is a set of strategies that helps motorcycle riders to always be in control and not to be caught unaware by the improper actions of other road users. It is also about noticing, anticipating and planning ahead. These strategies ensure a motorcycle rider remains in a safe, controllable situation. The following strategies and case studies can also be applied for driving other motor vehicles.

To be a consistent defensive rider, you must always ride in a defensive manner under all the following 6 conditions:

- a) Rider's Condition
- b) Motorcycle Condition
- c) Traffic Condition
- d) Road Condition
- e) Weather Condition
- f) Bright and Low Light Condition

RIDER'S CONDITION

197. Do not ride if you are not mentally and physically fit. You are not fit to ride if you are experiencing any of these adverse conditions;
- a) Tired/Sleepy
 - b) Angry
 - c) Worried
 - d) Under the influence of alcohol/drugs
 - e) Unstable emotional state
 - f) Eyesight problem
 - g) Hearing problem

MOTORCYCLE CONDITION

198. Ensure that your motorcycle is in optimal mechanical condition. Conduct pre-ride inspection of your motorcycle and do a thorough weekly check on all parts of the motorcycle. Replace or repair all faulty parts. Do not ride a defective motorcycle as it may endanger your life and those around you.

TRAFFIC CONDITION

199. Plan your route before departing. Know what the traffic condition is like before setting out. Avoid traffic jams by taking an alternative route. Start earlier if you know you will take longer than usual, to reach your destination.

Look far ahead, get the big picture and scan for hazards. Act promptly on all traffic signals and signs. Anticipate the intentions of other road users and react accordingly. Be tolerant of others' mistakes.

ROAD CONDITION

200. Read the condition of the road ahead of you. Look out for hazardous surfaces which are likely to cause skidding such as oil patches, water, mud, loose sand, fallen leaves and sharp curves.

Unlike a four-wheeled vehicle, which balances itself, a motorcycle requires a rider to keep it in balance and should anything upset this balance, the motorcycle will flip over and its rider thrown off the motorcycle. When this happens, the rider is bound to be injured.

Just a few square inches of rubber is all the motorcycle's tyre has in contact with the road surface. Should anything slippery get in between this small area of contact, a skid is inevitable.

When riding on an uneven road, you should use a lower gear. When riding over loose gravel or sand, you should slow down and avoid sudden or quick movements.