

Motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable on Arizona roads

Written by Australian Business

October 10, 2013 /**24-7PressRelease**/ -- Motorcyclists face several risks unique to motorists as they navigate roads occupied by hundreds of larger vehicles. Because of their size and speed, motorcycles are hard for those in bigger cars to see, in some cases too late. According to Yahoo!, Phoenix is a dangerous city for drivers of any vehicle. People in Phoenix face a two percent higher chance of getting into an [accident](#) than the national average, and this can be especially dangerous for motorcyclists.

Motorcycle injuries are more common and complex

The Arizona Department of Transportation reported that there were 3,166 motorcycle accidents last year. Out of those, 139 people were killed and 2,717 were injured. Because motorcyclists are less protected than passengers inside their larger vehicles, their injuries are typically much worse and more complicated than other accidents, says CaliforniaBiker.org. The head is the body part most at risk, followed by the arms and legs, with broken bones and road rash most often seen in emergency rooms after a motorcycle crash.

Although motorcyclists often get into accidents on their own by losing control of their bikes, accidents most commonly involve another vehicle, particularly with the larger vehicle turning in front of an oncoming bike. Drivers often report not having seen a motorcycle on the road, or not having seen it in time to prevent a crash.

Recently a 63-year-old man was killed in an accident in Tucson, said the Arizona Daily Star, when a teenage driver made a U-turn in front of his motorcycle and caused a crash. Tragically, the young girl's life was also changed that day as she now faces charges for causing the cyclist's death, and she could be held responsible for his family's expenses related to the crash.

Sharing the road with motorcycles

For motorcyclists, wearing an approved helmet greatly improves the chances of surviving a crash. But the bulk of the responsibility for preventing motorcycle accidents falls on other drivers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shares these following tips for keeping the roads safe for motorcyclists:- Remember that motorcycles have the same rights and privileges as any other car.- Be sure a cyclist isn't in a blind spot before changing lanes.- Give motorcycles plenty of space when following, since they can stop faster than larger vehicles.- Always signal before turning or switching lanes.

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In addition to driving safely, it's a good idea to be mindful of road conditions that can be dangerous for nearby motorcyclists, which may cause them to swerve, slow down abruptly or even lose control.

Contacting an attorney

Even minor [motorcycle accidents](#) can result in serious injuries. If you've been hurt in a motorcycle crash that was the fault of another driver, you have rights that may include compensation for your medical expenses. It's important to contact a personal injury attorney with experience in motorcycle accidents if you or a loved one has been hurt while on a motorcycle.

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