



Educator's Message

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Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Oklahoma District

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Greetings Everyone,

Do you Practice Safe Passing?

Think about what the other driver might do, and what **you should do** when you pass. When you must pass another vehicle, whether in your automobile or motorcycle, consider these safety tips. Remember the speed limit and passing zones are determined for safety.

- **Look well ahead**, especially on a two-lane highway. Leave enough room to pass safely and *don't assume* that oncoming traffic will slow down for you. Make sure that you are in a legal passing zone and above all else, check the yellow center lines and look for "No-Passing" signs.
- **Be certain that you have enough distance** between you and any on-coming traffic to safely pass the vehicle in front of you. You will have to exercise caution here and briefly ignore the two-second rule as you move your vehicle into a passing posture. Although you will not be using the two-second rule, weather conditions, road surfaces, terrain and traffic will play an important part in determining your safe following distance as you begin your passing maneuver.
- **Communicate** with other road users. **Use your turn signals** to alert others of your intentions. Check your blind spots! More often than not, other road users (vehicles) have a tendency to linger alongside motorcycles. **Look in both mirrors and make a head check before you move** to avoid cutting off another vehicle or running them off the road. Make your pass quickly, but do not exceed the speed limit.
- If you **must** travel over the speed limit, the pass is illegal and unnecessary. Once the passing maneuver is complete, check your mirrors to make sure you are **far enough ahead** to change lanes, signal your return to the right lane, and don't slow down! Give the vehicle behind you plenty of room. If you have to slow down, this could irritate the driver behind you and may also be another sign that you passed illegally.

The number 1 rule: Stay focused at all times. A safety minded rider will always find a safe, legal way to pass. Slow down, and maintain a safe following distance.

Ride Safe, and Keep the Shiny Side Up!

Steve and Carolyn

District Educators



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