

## Share the road. Look twice for motorcycles!

### *Motorcyclists face higher risks than other drivers*

It's that time of year again when, after a long hard winter, motorcycles are returning to Edmonton streets. The increased presence of motorcyclists doesn't always come along with an increased awareness by other drivers. All drivers have a shared responsibility to avoid high risk and injury collisions.



"Motorcyclists are more vulnerable to being seriously injured or killed if they're involved in a collision," said Gerry Shimko, Executive Director, Office of Traffic Safety, City of Edmonton. "Because they're not as visible as other vehicles, we ask that car and truck drivers look twice to make sure they know exactly who is in their blind spot before changing lanes, to use signals when changing lanes and to give plenty of space to motorcycles if travelling behind them. It's imperative that all drivers pay attention in order to save lives and prevent serious injuries."

For their part, motorcyclists are advised to take extra steps to minimize risks on city streets and area highways. It is important that motorcyclists use roads suited for their skill level, use turn or hand signals for every turn or lane change, wear the proper protective gear, watch for unexpected actions by other drivers and follow the posted speed limit.

Research shows that motorcyclists are more than 3.5 times more likely to get injured or die than other motor vehicle drivers. In 2013, there were 160 motorcycle collisions in Edmonton that resulted in 2 deaths and 119 injuries.

"Both motorcyclists and drivers need to be vigilant and look out for each other," added Shimko. "In the early spring, riders have to be especially aware of the road conditions, including the gravel on the streets. The City began neighbourhood street sweeping this week and it will take several more weeks for the roads to be cleaned of debris. Motorcyclists need to keep this in mind and adjust their driving accordingly."

### Media contacts:

[Dajana Fabjanovich](#)  
Communications  
Transportation Services  
780-495-0366

[Gerry Shimko](#)  
Executive Director  
Office of Traffic Safety  
780-496-2673

3rd Floor, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2R7  
[www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca)



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