



Safety Officer Tips

This month I'd like to address the importance of turn signals.

Many of us, or all of us have been behind a vehicle that suddenly slows and we wonder OK, why is this dude stopping, what's he going to do? Then, as the vehicle begins to turn left, the driver may actually flash the left turn signal! More often, they'll be no signal at all. This is dangerous and very frustrating. Perhaps if this driver signaled their intended direction, we may have been able to pass on the opposite side.

How many times have you been stopped at an intersection intending to go straight across and just as you began to move, the vehicle facing you suddenly pulls out and turns left, crossing in front of you.

As motorcyclists, we must stay a jump ahead of everyone and be ready for the unexpected at all times.

Section 316:155 of the Florida Vehicle and Traffic law states:

1. No person may turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a highway unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety, and then only after giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided, in the event any other vehicle be affected by the movement.

2. A signal of intention to turn right or left must be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning.

3. No person may stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided herein to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear, when there is opportunity to give such signal.

Any violation of this section is a non criminal traffic infraction punishable under a moving violation.

Our heads must be on a swivel at all times! We know that many drivers just do not see motorcycles, so we must make ourselves visible. Be sure to signal every intention. Be careful not to activate your signal too soon! Someone pulling out of a side street or business will see your right signal flashing and think you're going to turn in to where they're at and pull out in front of you when you intended to take the next right.

Be especially careful as many vehicles window tint make it impossible to make eye contact with the driver.

I hope this read will help to make us all better Riders.

Until next month,

Dave Esposito aka Cabbie

Safety is of the Lord

Proverbs 21:31