

SAFETY CORNER

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PREPARING TO RIDE

Borrowers and lenders of Motorcycles, beware. Crashes are fairly common among beginning riders. Especially in the first months of riding. Riding an unfamiliar motorcycle adds to the problem. If you borrow a motorcycle, get familiar with it in a controlled area. And if you lend your motorcycle to friends, make sure they are licensed and know how to ride before allowing them out in traffic.

No matter how experienced you may be, ride extra carefully on any motorcycle that's new or unfamiliar to you. More than half of all crashes involve riders with less than a few months of experience on their motorcycle.

Get familiar with the Motorcycle Controls. Make sure you are completely familiar with the motorcycle before you take it on the street. Be sure to review the owner's manual. This is particularly important if you are riding a borrowed motorcycle.

If you are going to use an unfamiliar motorcycle make sure all the checks you would do on your own motorcycle. Find out where everything is, particularly the turn signals, horn, headlight switch, fuel supply and engine cut off switch. Find and operate these items without having to look for them.

