



# Lane Splitting Safety Tips

**LANE SPLITTING**—Defined by California Vehicle Code Section 21658.1 as driving a motorcycle, as defined in Section 400, that has two wheels in contact with the ground, between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane, including on both divided and undivided streets, roads, or highways.

## Messages for Other Vehicle Drivers

- ⇒ Lane splitting by motorcyclists is legal in California.
- ⇒ Intentionally blocking or impeding a motorcyclist in a way that could cause harm to the rider is illegal.
- ⇒ Opening a vehicle door to impede a motorcyclist is illegal.
- ⇒ Drivers in the far left lane should move to the left of their lane to give motorcyclists ample room to pass.

## Safety Tips For All Motorists

You can help keep yourself and all road users safe by:

- ⇒ Checking mirrors and blind spots, especially before changing lanes or turning.
- ⇒ Signaling your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- ⇒ Being alert and anticipating possible movements by other motorists.
- ⇒ Never riding/driving while impaired by drugs, alcohol, or fatigue.
- ⇒ Being courteous and sharing the road.





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## \*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

Lane splitting can be dangerous and extreme caution should be exercised. It should not be performed by inexperienced riders. The risk of death or serious injury during a lane splitting collision increases as speed and speed differential increases. These general safety tips are provided to assist you in the practice; however, they are not guaranteed to keep you safe. Every rider has the ultimate responsibility for their own decision-making and safety.

### Lane Splitting Safety Tips for Motorcyclists

- = Consider the total environment when you are lane splitting (this includes the width of lanes, the size of surrounding vehicles, as well as current roadway, weather, and lighting conditions).
- = Danger increases at higher speed differentials.
- = Danger increases as overall speed increases.
- = It is typically safer to split between the far left lanes than between the other lanes of traffic.
- = Avoid lane splitting next to large vehicles (big rigs, buses, motorhomes, etc.).
- = Riding on the shoulder is illegal; it is not considered lane splitting.
- = Be visible – Avoid remaining in the blind spots of other vehicles or lingering between vehicles.
- = Help drivers see you by wearing brightly colored/reflective protective gear and using high beams during daylight.

For more information on how to sign up for motorcycle training, contact the California Motorcyclist Safety Program at

[www.californiamotorcyclist.com](http://www.californiamotorcyclist.com) or 1-877-RIDE-411

