

Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Guide to Group Riding

Group riding required an extreme level of awareness and concentration.

Clear your mind of distractions and strong emotions.

Know your limits and ride within them.

Come to the ride prepared- Full tank of gas and empty bladder.

Maintain a constant speed to prevent the “rubber band effect.”

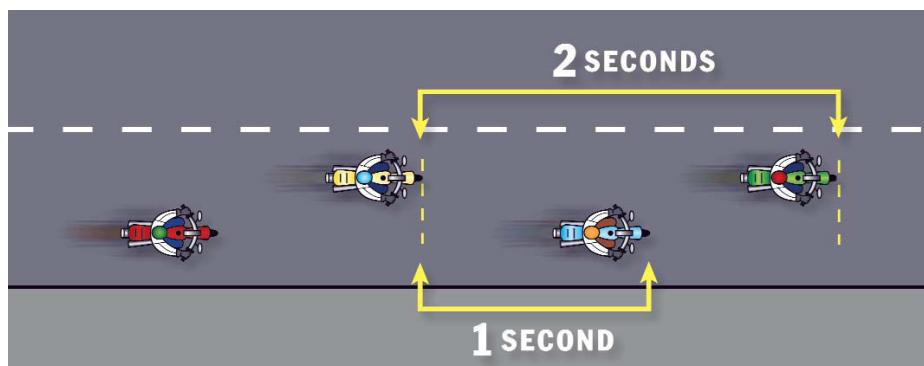
Your eyes should be watching a few bikes up the road from you not just the bike in front of you.

Never come up on the motorcycle in front of you.

Ride in formation.

The staggered riding formation (see diagram below) allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.

Avoid side-by-side formations, as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled.



Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.

If you're separated from the group, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.

For mechanical or medical problems, use a cell phone to call for assistance as the situation warrants.