

WATCH OUT FOR MOTORCYCLES

ALLIANZ RISK CONSULTING



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WHAT HAPPENED

An employee driving a company vehicle entered a main highway from a side street into the path of a motorcycle. The driver looked both ways before entering the highway but failed to see the motorcycle. The company driver was cited for “failure to yield.”

LESSONS LEARNED

Motorcycles are small and sometimes hard to see. Motorists should develop proper search patterns while driving in order to be able to see motorcycles and other small vehicles. The speed of an oncoming motorcycle is also sometimes difficult to determine, which can cause a motorist to underestimate the speed and distance of the motorcycle.

MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS AND DELIVERY SERVICES

WHAT HAPPENED

A pizza delivery driver struck a motorcyclist. The driver looked all ways at a four way stop and when it appeared clear, the driver pulled out. The motorcyclist hit the car and went under the carriage. The motorcyclist was pronounced dead at the scene.

LESSONS LEARNED

Fluke Accident?

Not according to recent statistics published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Per vehicle miles traveled, motorcyclists are 28 times more likely than people in passenger cars to die in a traffic cash. Motorcyclists continue to be overrepresented in traffic-related fatalities, accounting for 14% of all traffic-related fatalities, while representing only 3% of the entire registered motor vehicle fleet. In 2018, 54% of all motorcyclists fatalities occurred in crashes involving two vehicles, according to the National Safety Council.

SO WHY THE LARGE INCREASE?

Statistics published by NHTSA cite the leading factors for the increase in the number of car versus motorcycle accidents are:

- Increased engine displacement
- Increased age of motorcycle drivers
- Impaired motorcycle drivers (drivers under the influence)

WHAT SHOULD MY DRIVERS DO?

The following tips can increase driver awareness:

- Understand that you must share the road with motorcycles
- Always look left and right and left again before pulling out or making a turn
- Be aware that motorcycle speed can be deceptive. Motorcycles may be traveling at a higher rate of speed than you think
- Keep an eye out when changing lanes
- Be aware of a higher probability of more motorcycles on the road in warmer weather

MANAGERS

Please review the information above and share it with your delivery drivers. Remember, it's your responsibility as a manager to safeguard your employees from loss!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your independent agent or broker who can help you consult with an Allianz Risk Consultant.

For additional loss prevention tips go to:

- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration ([nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov))
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation ([msf-usa.org](https://www.msf-usa.org))
- Injury Facts, National Safety Council ([injuryfacts.nsc.org](https://www.injuryfacts.nsc.org))

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