

Safety Margin – ways in increase your safety

Safety margin is giving you time and space to maneuver. Good risk management is to figure out how to increase you safety margin. There are three factors that affect your safety margin.

1. Your capabilities and limitations. As you become more experienced rider or take a safety class, you increase your safety margin.
2. The capabilities and limitations of your motorcycle. Each style of motorcycle will have different capabilities; cruisers and sport bikes handle different that touring bikes. Know the limitations of your motorcycle and keep it serviced to increase your safety margin.
3. Roadway and traffic conditions. Two lanes, four lanes, gravel and road conditions all come to play with your safety margin. Congested highways affect your safety margin. Rain, road debris, sun glare, tar patches, etc... all affect your safety margin.

In summary, don't ride beyond your skill level, don't get into a situation that requires more steering/or braking than the motorcycle is capable of providing, your safety margin is gone if there is no time and space available to maneuver. Your risk of a crash is reduced by increasing your time and space safety margin.

Only a biker knows why a dog sticks his head out of a car window. ~Author Unknown

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