

FLEETING IDEAS

WATCH OUT FOR CYCLISTS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration forecasts that over 900 cyclists will be involved in fatal accidents this year. Most cyclists will be between the ages of 5 and 16. The actions of these younger riders can be hard to predict. Even when they are riding on the sidewalk, they can easily lose control and veer into the street.

Street hazards can also cause problems for bicycle riders. Bicycle tires may become caught in the gratings of storm drains causing the cyclist to fall or the cyclist may try to avoid a drain by swerving around it. Cross-country cyclists may be more predictable than younger riders may but they significantly impede traffic and can be a challenge to even the most cautious of drivers. These cyclists seem to prefer town-and-country roads where drivers must slow down and patiently wait for a safe opportunity to pass.

Road conditions that aren't unusual for your vehicle may be hazardous for motorcycles. A motorcyclist can lose control by hitting a small pothole, an oil slick, or by swerving abruptly to avoid these hazards.

Off-road motorcycles and three-wheelers can also appear suddenly on a street or highway. Even though they're designed for off-road use, the rider may cross a roadway or drive parallel to a roadway to

access a recreational area. Use extra caution when you're around a location used by off-road enthusiasts.

Key Points

Be aware of these potential hazards:

- Children can lose control of their cycles and veer into the street.
- Bicycle tires can be caught in drain grates causing the cyclist to fall.
- Motorcycles may swerve into your path to avoid potholes or oil slicks.
- Off-road motorcycles and three-wheelers can appear suddenly as they cross or ride near the roadway.

Take the proper precautions to avoid an accident with a cyclist:

- Watch out for cross-country cyclists and maintain your following distance.
- Expect the unexpected. Anticipate the actions of cyclists.
- Use caution when passing cyclists.
- Watch for cyclists as you make a turn.
- Check sidewalks for cyclists as you look left, right, left at intersections.
- Use extra caution around a location used by off-road enthusiasts.

