

### Following Distance

It's important to make sure you keep a safe following distance between you and the vehicle in front, so you will have enough time to stop suddenly if you need to. It is worth remembering that many drivers, especially those unfamiliar with the Rimutaka Hill, brake often and suddenly.

### Tips for Wairarapa open roads

A mix of long stretches of open road, winding corners and less traffic can make for a great ride, but that doesn't mean you should leave your ridesmarts in the city.

### Speed

Always ride at a speed where you have time to react. In many situations you could be riding too fast, even though you're well below the speed limit.

You may be thinking it's okay to speed a little while traffic is light and conditions are good, however, you need to seriously consider your ability to effectively spot hazards, react and take evasive action in a matter of seconds.

It takes three quarters of a second to make a decision to act once you see a hazard, and the same time again for the action to be effective. That's a second and a half before you would even start braking. At 60 km/h you would travel 25 metres in that time.

It's worth noting that many motorcycle crashes happen in good conditions with no other vehicles involved.

### Rural Roads

Rural roads can be full of potential hazards. Remember to ride to the conditions and be aware of:

- Changes in road surface – potholes, slick patches, loose metal
- Loose stock – they are unpredictable and scare easily
- Diesel and oil spills
- Cow manure – it's slippery!
- Large farm and horticultural vehicles, especially when approaching blind corners
- Drivers, particularly at intersections and concealed exits, where they may find it hard to see you and /or judge your speed.



# MOTORCYCLIST'S GUIDE

## RIMUTAKA HILL & WAIRARAPA



For more information visit [www.rideforever.co.nz](http://www.rideforever.co.nz)

Wairarapa Road Safety Council, P O Box 444, Masterton, ph: (06) 377 1379

## The Golden Rules of Safe Riding

A motorcycle is very unforgiving if ridden poorly or carelessly. The better you can ride, the more enjoyable a motorcycle is.

These golden rules and tips have been put together by expert motorcyclists, with many years of safe riding behind them:

### Look where you want to go

A motorcycle will tend to go where you are looking, so it's important to look ahead to where you want to ride. This technique can help you ride more safely. For example, if you're riding around a corner, don't look towards the edge of the road or at lamp posts, but look up the road where you want to go. And as long as the tyres don't lose grip, that's where you'll go.

### Move away from danger

The further away you are from a potential danger, the safer you are. You will have more time to react to avoid a crash. For example:

- If a vehicle ahead is waiting to turn across your path, move across your lane away from it.
- If an animal is hovering at the side of the road, move to the side of your lane away from it.

### Always be thinking "What if ...?"

- What if that dark patch on the road ahead is oil?
- What if an on-coming vehicle is just around the corner?
- If in doubt, always give hazards more space and slow down so you can stop more quickly if necessary.

### Know the abilities of your motorcycle

Too many motorcycle crashes happen because motorcyclists don't know the capabilities of their machines, particularly when they aren't able to use the full braking capacity of their motorcycle. If you don't know how to control a rear wheel skid, or if you are scared of applying both brakes firmly, you should get instruction on emergency braking skills from a motorcycle instructor or riding school. It may save your life.

### Lean by countersteering

The best way to lean your motorcycle for a corner is to countersteer.

Countersteering is the technique where you push forward on the handlebars in the direction that you want the motorcycle to go. For example, to lean and turn to the left, you should push forward on the left handlebar.

Even though it may seem to be the 'wrong' thing to do, countersteering is the most effective means of changing direction and controlling the motorcycle.

When the motorcycle is leaned over to the correct angle for the corner, you will instinctively straighten the handlebars and the motorcycle will stabilise.

**Many of the serious and fatal crashes on our roads involve motorcycles. You can learn from the misfortune of others by avoiding risky actions – and taking special care when you're in high risk situations.**

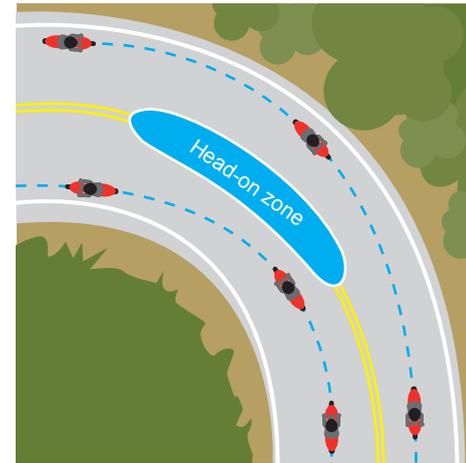
## Tips for riding the Rimutaka Hill

If you or someone you know has almost come unstuck on a corner you'll realise that one corner can change everything.

### Cornering – slow in, faster out

Professional motorcyclists know that going into a corner fast does not increase their overall speed. In fact, it's more likely to decrease it. Fast entry speed complicates cornering.

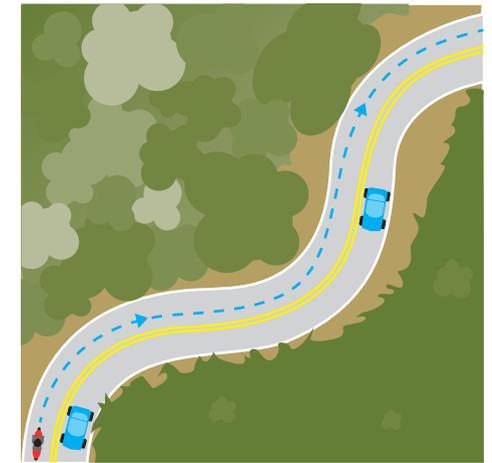
- As you approach, change down to the appropriate gear to get you into and out of the corner.
- Start the corner wide to improve your vision.
- Point your chin in the direction of the turn and scan the road with your eyes.



### Plan to finish in tight

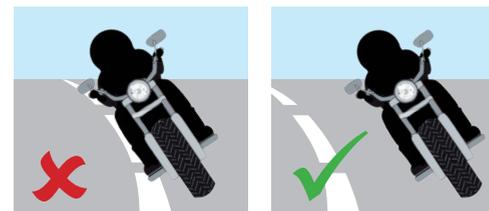
It helps to get your speed right and leave you room for slight errors. Most importantly, keep away from the head-on zone. Taking corners this way will slow you down a little on the approach but will allow you to accelerate out much earlier, when you have a clear view.

- Start wide for vision
- Plan to finish in tight.
- Keep away from the head-on zone.



### How to plan a series of corners (well-skilled riders only)

- If you start corners wide and plan to finish in tight, it allows you to link a series of corners together.
- By exiting in tight you will be perfectly positioned for entry into the next corner.
- Remember, if you see an oncoming vehicle, it is important to create a buffer. This will keep you out of the head-on zone and out of harm's way.



**Always ensure that your machine and body does not lean across the centre-line when cornering**