

motorcycle due to driver distraction.

**Wear a helmet.** Helmets are estimated to be 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries. That might not sound like much, but if you put it into perspective, for every 100 people killed on a motorcycle, 37 of them would have survived had they simply worn a helmet.

Lastly, one of the biggest contributing factors in motorcycle crashes is alcohol. Like any other vehicle, a motorcycle requires skill and coordination to operate. Unfortunately, motorcycles leave little room for error. Operating a motorcycle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is virtually a death sentence for the rider.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about 30 percent of bikers involved in fatal accidents were legally drunk, that is they had a blood alcohol concentration (BAL) over .08. However, approximately 45 percent of bikers involved in fatal accidents had some level of alcohol in their bloodstream.

When it comes to motorcycles – **Don't Drink and Ride** is not simply good advice – it is an obligation to yourself and everyone around you.



## CONTACT Us:

**9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES**

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

### *ACSO Important Phone Numbers*

ACSO Main Administration	352.367.4000
Crime Prevention Unit	352.374.1800
Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty	352.372.7867
Dept. of the Jail	352.491.4444
Evidence Section	352.367-4076
Human Resources	352.367.4040
Narcotics Tip Line	352.374.1849
Patrol	352.367.4101
Public Information Office	352.367.4050
Property Unit	352.367.4078
Records Bureau	352.367.4006
Victim Advocate Unit	352.367.4199



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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ACSO 2023

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, & MOTORCYCLES

Bicycles, scooters, and motorcycles are common sights in Alachua County as they are convenient, relatively inexpensive modes of transportation for many students and professionals.

Each of these two-wheeled conveyances are governed by specific rules, just as any other vehicle on the road.

## BICYCLES



Bicycle riders (and passengers) less than 16 years of age **must** wear bicycle helmets that are properly fitted, fastened securely and meet nationally recognized safety standards set by the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

Bicycles operated between sunset and sunrise **must** be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and both a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear. Additional lighting is permitted and recommended.

A bicycle **may not** be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped; an adult bicyclist may carry a child in a backpack or sling, child seat or trailer designed to carry children.

Cyclists **may not** wear a headset, headphone or listening device, other than a hearing aid, while riding.

Cyclists **must** ride on the right in the same direction as other vehicles and obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings. Do not ride in and out of cars. Always signal your moves to others.

Cyclists **must** yield to pedestrians who have already entered a crosswalk.

## SCOOTERS

Scooters are a popular mode of transportation among Gainesville's large college population because they are faster than bicycles and less expensive than motorcycles. However, practicing safe riding skills is imperative as a simple mistake can become a life-threatening disaster.

Scooter riders **must** be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. A learner's permit is not sufficient.

Scooters **must** have a license plate and be registered in order to be operated on public roadways.

**Riders are required by law to wear eye protection.**

Wear bright or reflective clothing so you will be visible to other drivers.

Be aware of traffic behind you and check your mirrors frequently. Other vehicles are likely traveling much faster than you are.

**Never wear headsets/headphones** or anything that would impair your ability to

hear the traffic around you.

Drive defensively and use hand signals to get noticed. The goal is to get safely from point A to point B.

Though not required, **helmets are still the best safety item you can use while operating your scooter.**

Don't let your guard down as soon as you park. Remember that scooters are also a favorite target of thieves. Make sure to secure your scooter every time so that it will be ready to take you to your next destination.

## MOTORCYCLES



Florida reported 590 motorcycle-related fatalities in 2022. While motorcycles only represent approximately three percent of all registered vehicles, they accounted for nearly 17% of Florida traffic fatalities in 2022. Motorcyclists are approximately 29 times more likely to be killed than the occupant of a passenger vehicle.

However, those who choose to ride motorcycles can improve their safety by adopting an attitude of vigilance. Other motorists may not see an oncoming