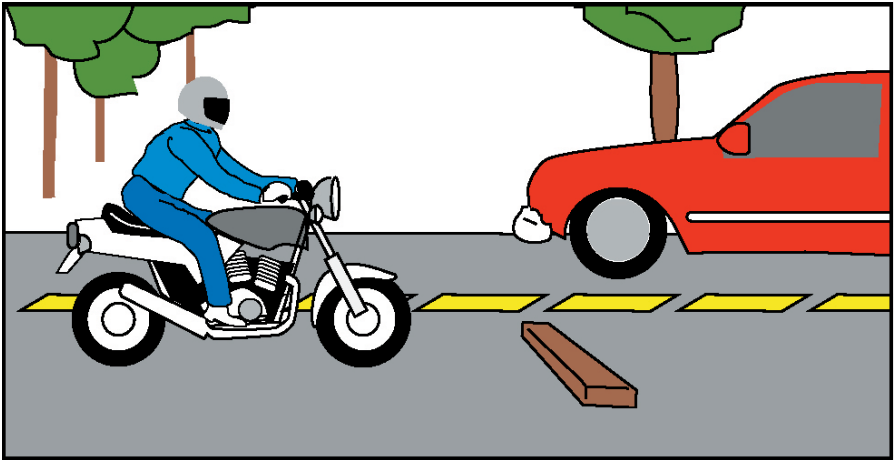


# UNEVEN SURFACES OR OBSTACLES

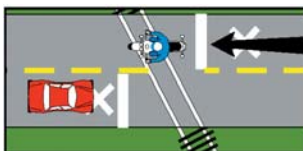


Uneven surfaces or obstacles such as broken pavement, bumps, potholes, railroad tracks, and loose debris pose a separate danger to the rider. The rider must first be able to identify the obstacle and next determine whether there is sufficient time and opportunity to safely clear the obstacle. If both time and space permit, the rider should slow the cycle or change lane positions to avoid the obstacle. If posed with having to ride over or clear the obstacle, the rider should approach at a ninety degree angle (90°). It is important in clearing an obstacle that a rider:

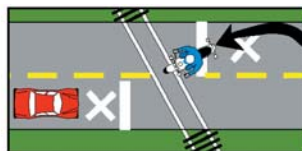
- Slow the cycle to reduce impact.
- Make certain the cycle is straight up.
- Just prior to reaching the obstacle, accelerate slightly to lighten the front wheel.
- Rise slightly off the seat with weight on the footpegs to minimize the chances of being thrown from the bike. Rising slightly off the seat allows the rider to absorb and transfer the shock of the obstacle to the rider's knees and elbows.
- Pull off the road to check tires and rims before proceeding.

## RAILROAD OR TROLLEY TRACKS

Motorcycle riders are able to safely cross railroad tracks at angles as sharp as forty-five degrees (45°). Riders are discouraged from altering their ordinary course of travel to cross railroad tracks at ninety degree angles (90°). This action may be more dangerous and result in the rider crossing into on-coming traffic.

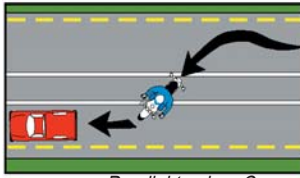


*Cross tracks - Correct*

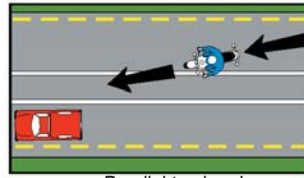


*Cross tracks - Incorrect*

Motorcycle riders must proceed more cautiously when crossing trolley tracks or pavement seams. Trolley tracks or pavement seams running parallel to a rider's course of travel are considered "edge-traps" and may cause loss of balance or cycle control. It is recommended that riders make a quick and sharp turn across trolley tracks and pavement seams. Riders are encouraged to cross trolley tracks or pavement seams at angles of at least forty-five degrees (45°).



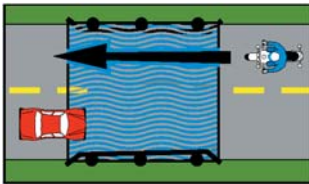
*Parallel tracks - Correct*



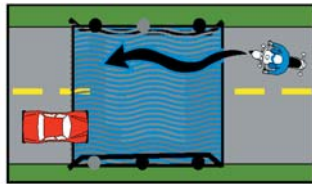
*Parallel tracks - Incorrect*

## GROOVES AND GRATINGS

Riding over rain grooves or metal bridge gratings may cause the motorcycle to weave and can create an unsettling feeling for the rider. Typically this activity is not dangerous provided the rider limits sudden or extreme movements while attempting to cross these types of surfaces. It is important for riders to maintain their speed and direction until safely on solid road surfaces.



*Grate crossing - Correct*

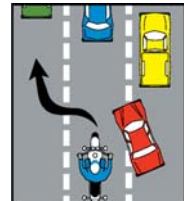


*Grate crossing - Incorrect*

## SWERVING OR TURNING QUICKLY

Even cautious riders may be forced to swerve or turn quickly to avoid hitting an object in their path of travel. This sudden adjustment or evasive maneuver may be the only way for a rider to avoid a collision and serious injury. It is important for riders to remain in their lane of travel in the event of an emergency. Even when the obstacle is a motor vehicle, often there is sufficient space within the lane for the rider to safely pass. A good rider will adjust body and cycle position while remaining focused on the obstacle.

A swerve can be described as any sudden change in direction by the rider. It can be either two quick turns or a rapid shift to the side. This maneuver can be safely performed by applying a small amount of hand pressure to the handlegrip in the direction a rider wishes to travel. This action will cause the motorcycle to lean quickly. The sharper the turn, the more the motorcycle will lean.

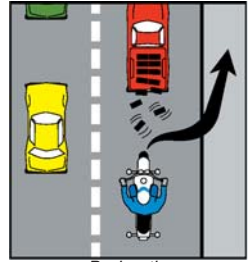


*Swerve, then brake*

When safely past the hazard, apply a small amount of hand pressure to the opposite handlegrip to return the cycle to its original direction of travel. It is important when performing such a maneuver to keep knees snugly against the tank with feet firmly planted on the footpegs for added stability and cycle control. Do not attempt to lean with the motorcycle; let the motorcycle move beneath you. Riders should not attempt to brake while swerving, as a skid could result and endanger the rider.

## QUICK STOPS

To avoid striking an object, riders may be forced to quickly stop their motorcycle. To quickly stop the cycle, apply both brakes firmly and steadily. Should the front wheel lock, immediately release the front brake lever and gently reapply brake pressure. Should the rear wheel lock, provided the cycle is traveling in a straight line, keep it locked until the cycle has come to a complete stop. Under such circumstances, riders are often able to safely control the cycle despite having the rear wheel locked.



*Brake, then swerve*

If forced to stop the cycle quickly while turning or riding a curve, concentrate on straightening the cycle before attempting to stop. When the cycle is upright, apply firm and steady brake pressure. If there is no opportunity to straighten the cycle, apply both brakes gradually while increasing brake pressure until safely stopped.

## FLYING OBJECTS

Occasionally, motorcycle riders are struck by insects, small pebbles, or debris from passing motor vehicles. A rider can significantly reduce the risk of injury by wearing the proper clothing and facial protection. Riders opting not to wear facial protection may be struck in the eyes, face, or mouth by such objects. A rider who has been struck by such an object should remain focused on the road ahead until the opportunity to safely stop the cycle presents itself. Once safely to the side, riders should check the cycle's equipment for damage while making the necessary repairs before returning to the road.

## ANIMALS

A motorcycle rider should make every effort to avoid hitting an animal. However, it is recommended in heavily congested traffic areas that riders avoid swerving into adjacent lanes of travel to avoid hitting the animal. Riders have a better chance of surviving impact with an animal as opposed to impact with a motor vehicle.

Motorcycles have a tendency to attract dogs, which may attempt to chase or catch the cycle. Should the rider be chased, it is important not to kick at the animal, for the rider could easily lose balance and cycle control. The rider should downshift and approach the animal slowly. Upon reaching the animal, the rider should speed up quickly and leave the animal safely behind.

