

Detailed Information for Communicate

- Communicate your presence and intentions.

Headlights (high, low, [modulators](#))

- Flashing from high to low beam can send false information. It can mean you are relinquishing your rights or giving your okay, whereas some drivers interpret it as "flash-to-pass" or even a hostile gesture. Be careful with this one....
- Riding on high beam can be irritating to other motorists. Check state laws for legality. (Minnesota Law - you must switch to low beam when following 200 feet behind another vehicle or when an approaching vehicle is 1000 feet in front.)

Brake lights: (flashing or [modulators](#))

- Pulsate the brake light while at a stop. This will get you noticed, but some motorists find it annoying. Still, the safety factor is something to consider.
- May be effective in communicating with a tailgater, but be cautious not to slow down too dramatically.
- Flash light when slowing down to warn traffic behind.

Turn signals:

- Combine with hand signal prior to the turn or lane-change to be more visible, but make sure both hands are on the bars when completing the maneuver.
- Allow the signals to flash for a minimum of 3 seconds.
- Remember to cancel your signal.

Horn:

- Aftermarket horns can be more effective than stock.
- Don't rely on it to keep you from danger. In these days of ultra-powerful car stereos, many drivers will never hear you, even with a powerful aftermarket air-horn. It's much better to concentrate on avoiding the situation.
- Excessive use of the horn minimizes its effect. (The "cry wolf" syndrome.)

Crash Fact: Driver inattention was a contributing factor in 23.2% of multi-vehicle crashes involving a motorcycle in 1994. Failure of the motorist to yield the right of way was a contributing factor in 36.5% of multi-vehicle crashes involving a motorcycle. This is not going to change. In fact, with the advent of SUVs, along with increased traffic volumes, it can only get worse. It is completely up to the rider to secure the margin of safety necessary to avoid a collision. That's not the law, but it IS the reality.