



If you find a wire hanging from the overhead or if you think any safety devices are malfunctioning, please call RTD at 299-6000 and report the situation.

## 12.4 BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES

Motorists must be on the lookout for cyclists and anticipate sudden and unexpected moves from them. A *“Share the Road”* attitude is the best policy to promote safe highways in Colorado. The most common motorist-caused car-bicycle or car-motorcycle collision is a motorist turning left in front of an oncoming bicycle or motorcycle. Drivers may fail to see cyclists or a driver may fail to judge the speed of oncoming cyclists. As a driver, remember to look for cyclists at the right side of the lane or on the shoulder and then look again. Make sure you see the cyclist and know their speed before you make your left turn.

Bicycles travel in the same direction as motor vehicles and are entitled to the full lane when traveling at the normal speed of traffic. However, they are generally moving more slowly and will usually travel to the right of the right lane or on the shoulder or bike lane. Exceptions include making left turns, or when a right turn lane is present and the cyclist is traveling straight through.

Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as other vehicles. Motorcyclists constantly change position within their lane so they can see and be seen and avoid road hazards. Never move into the same lane with a motorcycle, even if the motorcycle is traveling to one side of the lane. Also, be aware that strong winds can unexpectedly move a motorcycle out of its lane.

Bicycles and motorcycles are smaller, harder to see and can move faster and stop faster than expected. Their control is more easily hampered by road defects and debris. You should watch for bicycles and motorcycles, use extra caution when driving around either and increase your following distance.

## 12.5 CARELESS / RECKLESS DRIVING

Sharing the road is important not only for your safety and the safety of others, it is the law.

**42-4-1401 RECKLESS DRIVING:** *Any person who drives any motor vehicle, bicycle, or motorized bicycle in such a manner as to indicate either a wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving.*

**42-4-1402 CARELESS DRIVING:** *Any person who drives any motor vehicle, bicycle, or motorized bicycle in careless and imprudent manner, without due regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic and use of the streets and highways and all other attendant circumstances, is guilty of careless driving.*

## 12.6 AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Aggressive driving or reckless driving is defined as any behind-the-wheel behavior that places another person (or people) and / or property in danger through willful action without regard to safety.

### Aggressive vs. Reckless

Driving assertively to enter a freeway or changing lanes to protect yourself from another motorist encroaching on your lane is acceptable, but at what point does assertive driving become aggressive or reckless? The line is defined by your intent as a motorist.

If a law enforcement officer notes your actions as endangering another person or property (including the other motorist’s vehicle) you can be charged under Colorado’s reckless driving statute (42-4-1401) and if convicted, up to eight points can be assessed against your driving record.

A single act, such as tailgating another driver, passing on the shoulder or running a red light could be seen by a law enforcement officer as aggressive if the officer believes the action is willful and places others in danger. A combination of acts, such as speeding, cutting off other vehicles, swerving toward another motorist, honking, flashing headlights, yelling and using inappropriate hand gestures can also be considered aggressive driving.

Some acts, such as waving a weapon at another motorist, bumping or ramming another vehicle or high speed pursuit of a vehicle can result in criminal charges beyond a reckless driving charge.

### Protecting Yourself From Aggressive Drivers

To protect yourself from an aggressive driver, don’t engage with that driver. Don’t attempt to match his or her aggressive act. Avoid eye contact.

Even if you’ve unintentionally made a mistake that made the other driver angry, back off, give way to the other driver and let the aggressive driver go.

A few seconds engaged with an aggressive driver could change your life, or the lives of the loved ones riding with you, forever.

### Reporting Aggressive Drivers

Dial \*CSP to report aggressive drivers! The Colorado State Patrol has set aside a special cellular telephone number for motorists and bicyclists to use in reporting aggressive drivers. The call will be handled by the state patrol trooper closest to the caller, or will be referred to a participating local law enforcement agency. There is no charge for the call.

### Could I become an Aggressive Driver?

Anyone is capable of becoming an aggressive driver. Some drivers may be more likely to become aggressive. Here is a series of questions developed by Leon James PhD., to determine whether you have a greater potential to become aggressive behind the wheel. Take a few minutes to ask yourself these questions, and be honest with yourself. Do you: