



Please take the time to read the following article, it may save your life. After I've explained the risks of riding I've listed the best methods of avoiding an accident in the first place. Hopefully they'll prove valuable and you'll enjoy incident free scootering for years to come.

From a recent motorcycle/scooter accident study:

The likelihood of injury is extremely high in the most common scooter/motorcycle accident-98% of the multiple vehicle collisions and 96% of the single vehicle accidents resulted in some kind of injury to the motorcycle rider; 45% resulted in more than a minor injury...

Now this may come as a complete surprise to some scooter riders but the following is actually true—scooters can be dangerous. What you say? A scooter, dangerous no way—you lie, it's a scooter, it's a cute little wee thing. Well folks I hate to be the bearer of bad news but when you crash—you will break.

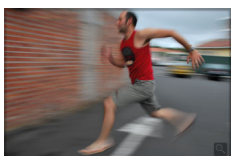
No matter how many times people are told this—they simply don't get it. I have decided to explain the perils you expect every time you ride in well—rather a unique way. Hopefully it sinks in—if you're already a super safe rider, well done, obviously you have either already crashed or are simply very smart. Okay—read on at your peril—I will apologize just once, for only the facts remain.

I'll warm you up before the fun begins with this simple stat; **in Italy scooter accidents are the number one cause of death for people aged between 14 and 25. NUMBER ONE—nothing else kills more young people.**

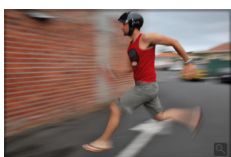
That alone should be enough for you to read onâ€¦



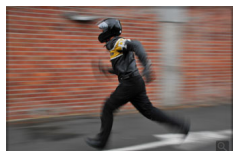
Imagine the following scenario; you stand approximately fifty meters away from a brick wall (color is irrelevant), you are wearing either a t-shirt and shorts or a singlet/tank-top and skirt depending on your gender, you take a deep breath then run as fast as can into the wall. (Stop a second and really think about thisâ€¦ imagine the fastest youâ€™ve ever runâ€¦ straight into the wall, no hands out in front, nothing, just your kisser right into the brick). As you can well imagine, this will hurtâ€¦ a lot. In fact I doubt anybody with a correctly functioning brain would do this for any reason. If you are a very very fast runner you will reach approximately 40kph causing a rather violent impact. Your face will be mush; itâ€™s also possible the impact could actually kill you due to skull fractures and head trauma. You may have many broken bonesâ€¦ generally things will be bad in your world.



Now if you repeat the same run while wearing an open face helmet the outcome will be much the same except your head trauma will be lessened and you will most likelyâ€¦ not die. However, your face will probably still be mush as it is highly likely it will strike the wall to some degree.



Finally, we now repeat the test wearing a full complement of safety gear; (weâ€™ll assume you can reach the same target velocity even though you will be wearing a lot of safety gear and a helmet; and well, youâ€™ll also look pretty silly running in all this kit) youâ€™ll be wearing a padded and approved motorcycle/scooter jacket, pants and gloves and a **FULL FACE HELMET**. The impact will still be very violent, you will possibly still break bones; but almost certainly you will not die and your lovely face will still beâ€™ lovely.



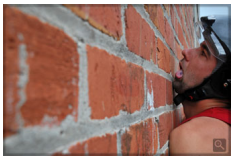
Now we step it up. This first test approximately simulated hitting a stationary car at 40kph, which is by far the most common accident for motorcycle and scooter riders. (Car driver doesnâ€™t see the scooter; they pull out then see the scooter and panic stop directly in the path of the hapless rider) First letâ€™s assume the accident is sudden (like most are) and you simply have no time to brake. (Usually itâ€™s less than two seconds to avoid the car or stop) Weâ€™ll use 60kph as the target speed as it is the velocity most riders travel at in the average city. The outcome at this speed is far more severe, at this speed there is a high likely hood of severe injury and possible death. The likely hood of injury and death is still MASSIVELY reduced by wearing protective clothing and a FULL FACE HELMET.

Finally weâ€™ll move up to the big smackaroonie, that wall is no longer stationary. It is traveling towards you at an equal velocity of 60kph; giving you a combined impact speed of 120kph. Put simply; if you crash into a car, bus, truck; pretty much any vehicle including another scooter at his velocity; it will be a miracle if you DONâ€™T DIE. Those are the facts.

The other common accident is simply a small and what should be a relatively minor skid along the tarmac. Most often it is a wet road, an unseen obstacle, pedestrian or another vehicle that causes the accident. Letâ€™s use a person. Youâ€™re happily cruising along on a beautiful summerâ€™s day; a pedestrian steps out without looking, you panic brake and turn, the front wheel slides out from under you and you and the bike go down together. Now letâ€™s assume you were traveling at 60kph, you hit the deck and quickly decelerate to 0kph. If you were wearing the appropriate safety gear youâ€™ll most likely be a bit battered and bruised but youâ€™ll probably be more concerned with your bike than yourself as often youâ€™ll be just fine after this sort of accident.

Now the scary bit—what if you weren't wearing the safety gear? Well if you were wearing—say shorts, a t-shirt and an open face helmet, then things could be very bad. You won't just get up and walk away, you won't care about your scratched up bike as you'll likely be missing a lot of your skin.

Ask anybody—anybody who's been down at a reasonable speed without protective clothing. The road is like a cheese grater, it literally grinds your skin off—down to the bone—THE BONE. In motorcycle circles open face helmets are called FACE GRINDERS or CHIN GRINDERS, and for good reason. If your face hits the tarmac—it will come off. I'll make it simple here—I know open face helmets are great on those beautiful sunny days, I love wearing them too—but **beautiful sunny days are better when you actually have a face**



Riding in a t-shirt and shorts is simply idiotic, in fact it should probably be illegal. Go ahead if you like—it's your skin. Quote me on this though—one day you'll regret it. You may end up regretting it the rest of your life.

If you haven't already done it make sure you get yourself a modern totally mesh summer jacket and at least wear that on hot days. We also totally recommend a pair of Draggin Jeans as they function just like a regular pair of pants but contain Kevlar protection in case of an accident. They will save your skin—they are simply the best product available for bike riders of any sort. Buy some today. You can do it online if necessary at [Draggin Jeans](#)

Okay so that's what happens when you crash. However far more important than that is this—**how to avoid the accident in the first place.**

The following are the secrets to avoiding accidents:

- **1. Assume every vehicle on the road will try to kill you.** If a car is stopped on a side street, assume IT WILL PULL OUT, even after you've locked eyes with the driver, they will still try and kill you. In fact even if there is no driver in the car, it may still try and kill you (cars hate scooters, it's in their DNA) remember this and live by it. Always be ready for the inevitable lunge of death, other vehicles simply cannot see you. They really can't. Always keep your hand hovering on the brake when passing any kind of potential intersection i.e. side street, road, parking space, shop, water slide anything that any kind of object could possibly pull out from.
- **2. Scan the road far ahead of you.** Look as far ahead as possible, for anything that could become a hazard inc gravel, intersections, wet patches of road, oil etc etc..
- **3. Do whatever it takes to be visible.** For example, have your headlight on at all times, wear bright clothing, reflective clothing, a bright colored scooter, a Mohawk helmet extension, a neon sign, a large 50 foot flag, set yourself on fire, take a elephant as your pillion...really do whatever it takes to be seen. On a scooter...black is the new dead.
- **4. Weave** yes really. When approaching an intersection if you are uncertain if a driver has seen you or not simply weave from side to side; this sideways movement helps break the motion camouflage which hides vehicles approaching in a direct line. Scooters are small and the motion camouflage when driving directly towards another vehicle is severe. Remember and use this technique. It will keep you alive.
- **5. Slow down at all intersections.** Simple really. 75% of all motorcycle and scooter accidents are cars pulling out in the direct path of the bike. If you slow down and keep your hand on the brake through all intersections you might just be able to stop in time when that car pulls out in front of you. If it hasn't happened yet it will soon.
- **6. Regularly practice emergency braking.** This will enable you to brake quickly without locking the front wheel and possibly avoiding an accident. Do this at least once a week as you quickly forget it.
- **7. Check your tire pressures.** Do this regularly and always make certain your brakes are fully operational.
- **8. Don't ride when tired.** This is when you're most likely to crash.
- **9. Never ride using headphones.** One day this will kill you.
- **10. Obviously don't ever drink or take drugs before riding.** Riding takes far more cognitive ability than driving a car.

Riding a scooter is great fun and is something millions of people do every day the world over. If you're always careful you'll likely have many years of incident free riding. Summing up is pretty simple. Be safe, wear protective clothing including some gloves, wear a full face helmet and always, always pay attention! Oh, and remember - **cars are evil! They really do want to**

kill you.