



Scooter Safe

Module 2

SAFE MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR PRACTICES



The People for People over 50

NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the importance of planning & preparation
- To learn general road safety principles
- To be aware of safe motorised wheelchair practices



Module 2.2

Planning & Preparation

- Wear bright clothing so you are visible.
- Use hat and sunscreen.
- Make sure sun or rain covers don't obstruct your vision or hearing.
- Plan your journey. Use roads with footpaths and controlled intersections. Use quieter roads.



Module 2.3

Check Yourself

- If you are feeling ill or tired, your driving skills may be impaired. If unsure, leave the motorised wheelchair at home.
- New medication may impair your judgement, or physical skills. Check with your pharmacist.
- Be aware - No drink riding! It is an offence to use under the influence of alcohol.



Module 2.4

Check Your Motorised Wheelchair

- Is the battery charged?
- Check that the rear view mirror is in place.
- Lock the seat assembly before moving.



Scooter Safe

Module 2.5

©Copyright 2002 C Marcar. Developed for NRMA - ACT Road Safety Trust.

General Safety Principles

- Always turn the key to the OFF position when stopped or when getting on or off your motorised wheelchair.
- Use racks on your motorised wheelchair instead of balancing things on your lap
- Always keep your feet on the footpad whilst in motion.



Module 2.6

General Safety Principles(cont)

- Never make sharp turns at high speed.
- Never stop on an incline to rest or dismount.
- Know the maximum slope your motorised wheelchair can climb.
- Avoid temporary structures such as wooden ramps unless you are certain they can take the combined weight of yourself and the motorised wheelchair.



Module 2.7

Safe Practices

Kerb Ramps

- Approach the ramp or kerb ramp straight on.
- Do not go up or down a ramp at an angle.



Module 2.8

Foot Paths

- Use foot paths whenever possible.
- Be aware of vehicles reversing out of driveways.
- If you want to pass a pedestrian, toot your horn or call out.



Module 2.9

Bike Paths

- You are allowed to use bike paths but
 - keep to the left,
 - be aware of high speed cyclists,
 - listen and use your rear vision mirror.



Scooter Safe

Module 2.10

On the Road

- Only use the road if there is no footpath.
- Keep as close to the kerb or edge as possible.
- Use caution when riding your motorised wheelchair on rough edges of roads.
- Travel in single file.
- When passing parked cars, watch out for doors being opened.



Scooter Safe

Module 2.11

Crossing the Road

- You are not as visible as cars. Drivers cannot always see you. Take extra care. A high safety flag is suggested.
- When crossing the road you must completely leave the road, therefore, check there is a driveway or kerb ramp on the other side.
- Try to cross at lights, or crossings.



Scooter Safe

Module 2.12

Crossing Intersections

- Cross as other pedestrians would.
- If no kerb ramps are provided, travel along the kerb until you find a ramp or driveway.
- Avoid roundabouts. If you must cross a roundabout, cross as other pedestrians would.
- If there are no kerb ramps, cross the road away from the intersection.



Scooter Safe

Module 2.13

Indoor Use

- Remember the space your motorised wheelchair uses.
- Avoid congested areas.
- Travel slowly, walking pace.
- If you can walk short distances, it may be easier to park your motorised wheelchair outside the shop or toilets.



Parking

- Remember to leave clearance around the motorised wheelchair for those using prams or shopping trolleys.
- Remember to take your key if you leave the motorised wheelchair.



Scooter Safe

Module 2.15

©Copyright 2002 C Marcar. Developed for NRMA - ACT Road Safety Trust.

Using your Motorised Wheelchair at Night

- Wear something reflective.
- Lights and reflectors should be installed including:
 - flashing or steady white light visible for at least 200m,
 - rear flashing or steady red light visible for at least 200m,
 - red reflectors.

