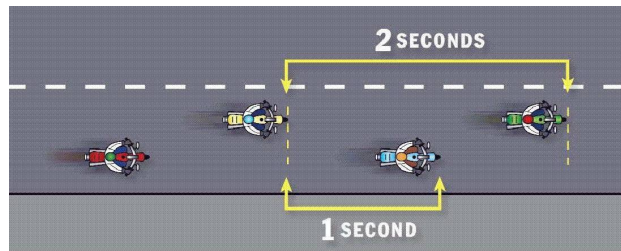


## Staggered Formation Riding



*"One Mississippi"... "Two Mississippi"*

**One-second rule:** The bike in the lane to your left or right should not be less than one second ahead of you.

**Two-second rule:** Maintain at least two seconds between you and the rider in front of you.

**Four-second rule:** Look ahead four seconds at your immediate path of travel to give yourself more time to react to a hazard.

**Twelve-second rule:** Also look ahead at your anticipated path of travel. Twelve seconds is about one city block.

### Minimum Safe Following Distances:

1. Within the group, a safe distance is defined as a **MINIMUM TWO SECOND DELAY** between the rider, and the next rider directly ahead. This means that there is a **MINIMUM** of a **ONE SECOND DELAY** between staggered riders. Whenever a single file formation is employed, a safe distance remains defined as a **MINIMUM** of a **TWO SECOND DELAY** between the rider, and the rider directly ahead. The riders should also realize that by creating a large gap in the formation, that cars will try to move in & split the formation, causing a dangerous situation. It also causes problems for the Road Captain when there are large gaps in the formation.
2. Too many people get hung up with, "there must be only 2 seconds between bikes". This is a guideline for average highway riding. The gap should be determined by the speed and road conditions. The gap should be established before the ride for the sections of road to be traveled. The faster the speed, the more gap there should be. With that said... we also do not want huge gaping gaps in the formation where other vehicles will attempt to break into the formation. The gap should be consistent throughout the formation.
3. With respect to vehicles ahead of the group, a safe distance is defined as an **ABSOLUTE MINIMUM** of a **THREE SECOND DELAY** between the Road Captain, and any vehicle directly ahead of the group. If a car pulls in front of the formation, make adjustments to keep a good distance.

**NOTE: It's important to keep in mind that a two second interval is a MINIMUM safe requirement in order to react in the event of a potentially hazardous condition, NOT TO STOP.**

In group riding, a one-second interval between STAGGERED riders is a policy consistent with the recommendations of most traffic and safety agencies.

STAGGERED motorcycles are considered to be in a "virtual" lane of their own, that is that there is a two-second interval between motorcycles in a direct line. This group riding technique requires all participants to constantly ANTICIPATE an EMERGENCY.

A safe lane position is defined as riding immediately to the right or left of lane center. This will keep the riders just off the center oil stain, while maintaining the staggered formation, distance between riders and other obstacles, and providing necessary lane position.