

National Initiatives: Motorcycle Safety

Presented by:

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National Problem Areas (2008 FARS Data)

- Of all fatally injured motorcycle riders (**operators**):
 - ❖ 35 percent were speeding
 - ❖ 25 percent were without a license or proper endorsement to operate a motorcycle
 - ❖ 30 percent were legally impaired (0.08 BAC+)
 - ☐ 64 percent of those killed in single-vehicle crashes on weekend nights had BACs of 0.08 g/dL or higher!

BREAKING NEWS!

2009 FARS Data

- Motorcyclist fatalities broke the continuous 11-year increase with a significant **decline of 850 fatalities** (from 5,312 fatalities in 2008 to **4,462 in 2009-16 percent decline**)
- Motorcyclist injuries also experienced a decline, from 96,000 in 2008 to 90,000 in 2009
- Motorcyclist fatalities now account for **13 percent** of total fatalities

NHTSA Planners

- Share the Road Planner
 - ❖ To increase motorists' awareness of motorcycles and to promote rider responsibility
 - ❖ Print material was developed
- Impaired Riding Planner
 - ❖ Motorcycles were included in the annual nationwide enforcement effort to crack down on impaired driving
 - ❖ Video and print material was developed

National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety

- May is Motorcycle Awareness Month
- NHTSA developed "Share the Road" which are Common Themes and Language that serve to convey the importance of sharing the road safely with motorcyclists
- Riders need to make themselves visible, and draw attention to themselves. Other drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians may not be actively looking

National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety-Cont.

- A motorcycle has the same rights and privileges as any other vehicle on the roadway
- Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width. Motorcycles need room to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane
- Motorcycle signals may not be self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed

National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety-Cont.

- Allow more following distance –three or four seconds following a motorcycle so the motorcycle rider has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency
- Due to road conditions (pot holes, gravel, road seams) motorcycle riders may change speed or adjust position within a lane suddenly in reaction
- <http://trafficsafetymarketing.gov/motorcycles/ShareTheRoad/index.cfm>

Motorcycle Safety/Facts

- Helmets save lives !!
- 20 States plus the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico require helmet use for all motorcyclists. Other states require no helmet use at all, or require them for riders under the age of 18. Only VT, and MASS have laws in New England
- All Dot-compliant motorcycle helmets sold in the U.S. meet Federal Motor Vehicle Standard 218. This is the performance standard which establishes the minimum level of protection in helmets afforded to each user

Motorcycle Safety Program Technical Assessment

- A tool that NHTSA offers to States to review past, current, and planned activities to strengthen it's current Motorcycle Safety Program
- 27 Motorcycle Safety Program Assessments have been conducted in 22 States
- Massachusetts received an assessment in July 2010

Operator Impairment CD

- Riders Helping Riders Training Program
 - ❖ Demonstrated and Evaluated print-copy of course materials in Georgia's Rider Training Program
 - ❖ NHTSA converted the program to CD-Rom, which is available for distribution to State programs and other stakeholder organizations (i.e., rider clubs)
 - ❖ NHTSA partnered with the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) to promote Riders Helping Riders at Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows and other venues

I will be followed by Ray Gaulin-
Connecticut DOT

