**Motorcycle Facts/Background and Talking Points**

**Facts**

* Motorcycling popularity is at an all-time high in Minnesota with nearly a quarter-million registered bikes.
* Minnesota had an upward trend in rider deaths beginning in the late 1990’s due to the surge in riders, many of whom were older men — some totally new to riding, and they lacked proper training and experience.
* In the five year time period of 2015-2019, there were 270 motorcyclist deaths. Fifty-nine percent of the deaths were aged 45 or greater.
* There were 44 motorcyclist deaths in 2019, a 24 percent decrease from the previous year when there were 58 fatalities.
* The contributing factor listed most often by officers in both single and multiple vehicle crashes regarding crash-involved motorcycle drivers is “Failure to Yield Right of Way” The contributing factor listed most often for the other drivers is “Careless/Negligent Driving.”
* More than half of all motorcycle-involved crashes are “single-vehicle” crashes. That is, no other motor vehicle is involved, just the motorcycle.
* Drinking and riding is a big problem — each year, one third of motorcycle drivers killed had been drinking.

**Talking Points**

Motorists — more riders on the road than ever, drivers need to be alert. Look twice for riders. Expect to see motorcycle riders when entering or crossing a roadway. Most motorcycle-vehicle crashes occur when vehicles are turning or in intersections.

Share the road — Riders should assume they are invisible and keep a safe distance from all vehicles and travel at safe speeds.

Ride straight —one third of all motorcycle driver deaths involve drinking drivers.

Riders need to stand out and ride “high-viz” — wear brightly colored protective gear and a DOT-helmet for visibility and protection. Riders should wear all the gear, all the time.

Get trained — our Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center provides training and education to ride better, safer, and longer. Training is available for beginning to expert riders at 29 locations statewide. Rider training helps new riders develop skills to earn a license and helps returning and experienced riders sharpen their skills. Register at motorcyclesafety.org

Rider Training courses:

* Basic Rider Course
* Intermediate Rider Course
* MN Advanced Rider Course
* MN Expert Rider Course
* 3-Wheel Rider Course
* Moped Rider Course
* Introduction to Motorcycling
* Basic Motorcycle Maintenance
* Motorcycle Road Guard Certificate
* Moped Rider Course
* Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Group Riding Seminar
* MSF Street Smarts Program
* Rider Coach Preparation Course

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