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Summer Motorcycle Accidents Promote Safe Rides

For avid motorcycle riders, the summer season is jam packed with long rides, training seminars, and events to get bikers together to eat food, listen to music, and celebrate their favorite past time. The weather allows for longer rides in better road conditions, and more flexible work and school schedules enable motorcycle riders to take some time off to enjoy long rides and motorcycle advocacy events. Unfortunately, more bikers on the roads means an uptick in motorcycle accidents during the summer months. So to prevent fatal motorcycle accidents this summer, bikers should review the statistics and wear all appropriate safety equipment while zooming down city streets and highways.

The easiest way for bikers to avoid fatal motorcycle accidents is to wear all appropriate safety equipment, including a helmet. Much of the motorcycle community opposes mandatory helmet laws that have sprouted up in 20 states nationwide, including California and New York. They argue that mandatory helmet laws decrease ridership and fail to prevent the total number of motorcycle accidents. But statistics show that the vast majority of fatal motorcycle accident victims could have been saved by wearing a helmet. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports, for example, that helmets saved 2,000 bikers in 2008 alone, and predicts that a nationwide helmet law could have saved an additional 822.

Another great way to reduce accidents is for bikers to employ a safety in number strategy. Throughout the summer, motorcycle groups sponsored by Harley-Davidson and other organizations are hosting large rides across the country. These rides are intended to get bikers together to ride and share their interest in motorcycles. But they carry the added benefit of assuring safety for the groups by forcing other motor vehicles to stay aware of the bikers and share the road.

It's also important to note that each year, more teens are getting on motorcycles. As with cars, teens are more likely to drive under-experienced and to take risks on their motorcycle. The statistics for teen motorcycle riders are particular daunting. In 2009, for example, 205 teen bikers were killed and nearly 5,000 were injured. Of those fatally injured in 2009, more than a quarter were not wearing helmets and 39 percent were either unlicensed or driving with an invalid license. So although teens make up a small number of total motorcycle riders, they represent the future of motorcycle safety and could greatly benefit from a solid understanding of motorcycle safety statistics.

More Information:

<http://www.gjel.com/news/california-motorcycle-summer-safety-information.html>

<http://www.gjel.com/blog/california-motorcycle-helmet-law-debate.html>

<http://www.gjel.com/blog/california-teen-motorcycle-safety-information.html>