

THE SAFETY CORNER

Tom Kelly



Happy April Hoglets!

This month's topic will be Protective Clothing. The things you should wear while you are riding your motorcycle are: Helmets...even if not required. Long sleeve shirt or coat. Long pants. Gloves.

The reason I am using this topic is because Theresa Lynn had an accident and I know this is going to sound strange.

She ran over a mattress that flew out of a truck at about 55mph.

Her injuries were very minor, only had some scrapes on her fingers all due to her wearing her protective gear. I saw her coat which saved her a lot of road rash. Also her helmet saved her from having any head injury. So please, when you are out riding your bikes wear your safety gear!!!

TOM

Fool's Gear

HEAD. Considered precious by sensible people; never exposed by the pros. When fully in view, allows immediate identification of unsafe person not using his or hers. Hand out rider education info on sight.

EYES, EARS AND FACE. Exposure leads to irritated eyes, noise-deafening windblast, and distracting impacts from bugs and road debris.

HANDS. *Au naturel* (not for long). Known to lock into curled position when exposed to cold, not genetically evolved to withstand abrasion.

BARE LIMBS. A phenomenon seen only in riders who think it's other people who crash. Subject to ridicule in riding circles.

FLIP FLOPS. Terminology for what sandals, toes and feet do upon contact with road surfaces, shift lever, brake pedal, or footrests.

BOTTOM LINE. Fool's gear identifies an unaware rider. Learn how to avoid embarrassment, ridicule and injury, while gaining valuable skills and knowledge by completing an MSF RiderCourse®.

Cool Gear

HELMET. Most important piece of protective gear a rider can use. Protects against head injury, windblast, cold, and flying objects. Full-face helmet recommended.

FACESHIELD. "Saves face." Any rider who's been hit in the face by stones, insects, or debris can tell you the benefits.

GLOVES. Keep hands comfortable, functional, and protected. There's an infinite variety for all seasons.

JACKET AND PANTS. Long sleeves and sturdy trousers resist abrasion and protect against sunburn, dehydration, or hypothermia. Some riders wear padded gear with "body armor" for more protection. Light colors in the daytime and reflectivity at night make it easier for car drivers to see you.

BOOTS. Provide protection against foot and ankle injuries and give you a good grip on footrests or road surfaces.

BOTTOM LINE. Dress for the ride as well as for the crash. Proper riding gear allows you to enjoy the ride in comfort and helps minimize injury.

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The more you know, the better it gets.