

THE SAFETY CORNER

Tom and Karen Brunelle



SEPTEMBER 2022 : FALL RIDING

Hello all,

Well friends, it's that time of year again....in a couple of weeks, **FALL** rolls in... and with it some things we need to be aware of as riders.

COLOR CHANGES!

Everyone loves the changing of the colors, and with that, people in general pay a lot less attention to their driving, and more to the fall beauty. It happens to us all, drivers and riders alike. For example, as some of us like to travel the canopy roads you can see the grand colors that nature has to offer and somewhat forget about driving our bikes. If you really want to take in the view, please pull over where safe to do so, park your bike, and enjoy nature in all its glory!

LEAVES!

Leaves can be scary, you can ride into a sharp turn, come up on a pile of leaves way too quickly to make a safe correction and they can take you out before you know what happened. And what can be worse, after rain showers they become wet and slick. A motorcycle rider not focusing can easily lose concentration and may find his or her vehicle sliding out from underneath them. The slick surface also makes it harder to stop! Another reason to avoid leaves is you have NO idea what is beneath them such as road debris, garbage or worse.

Remember, treat leaves with a LOT OF RESPECT!

COLDER TEMPERATURES!

Temperatures dropping means two things to bikers:

Expect frost in the early mornings, and sharp coldness at night. "The cold and the road" ... As frost may be found on bridges and other elevated surfaces, avoid them or drive carefully as they can cause you to lose traction. Also be aware of uneven road conditions, construction, and anything else that could bring your ride to an unforeseen end.

COMFORT!

How can you prepare for personal comfort? You should be ready to layer up to remain comfortable and fight off the cold. Possible warm face gear (my face always freezes first), vests, gloves, heavy leather, and warm boots will do the trick. And there's always electric clothing.

DARKER CONDITIONS!

It's no secret, Daylight Savings Time ends in November.... having said that, it's already getting darker earlier. Seeing the sun set earlier means you'll need to be ready for the road as you come home from work or travel in the dark. To stay safe, make sure your bike's lights are in good working condition. For additional visibility, consider wearing gear with reflective strips. As we previewed in the spring chapter meeting...SEE and BE SEEN!

POTHOLES!

One disadvantage of FALL weather driving is ...potholes. Potholes seem to rear their ugly heads more so in the fall and winter months more than any other time of year. Blame it mostly on the rain and cold. School buses, heavy trucks, cars, and poor maintenance can also contribute to the bad road conditions. Potholes, unseen can wreak havoc on your tires and suspension. The big ones can send you over the bars!

Fall can be a beautiful time to ride, but be aware of distracted drivers, early darkness, road conditions, and anything else that can take away from your safe riding experience. Remember, highway safety depends on you! Whether you are a driver, passenger, or pedestrian, be observant and be adaptable to be safe!

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