



Autumn Is Coming To A State Near You!

By Mark Manley— Safety Officer

Ah yes Autumn, the time of year when cool days make our engines purr and the changing leaves add another dimension to our riding pleasure. It's a great time for riding up north (for us north Ga., Tenn. N. C. northern Al.) riding in some beautiful scenery of colors of leaves changing along some sweeping mountain roads on a clear day that looks like it just jumped off a Van Gogh canvas.

It's not hard to be caught up in all that breath taking beauty just winding your way through all the natural awe, and all is well as long as the leaves are still on the trees and not on the roads.

Once they start falling our riding experience and training must come into focus and prepare us for the hazard of leaves on the road present to us on riders. I'm sure that some, if not all of us at one time or another have experienced a front or rear tire slip as we passed over leaves or in our case here, pine needles.

It's a chilling feeling and maybe humbling for that split second loss of control causes when riding a motorcycle. When riding on a road with leaves falling you need to be aware of your speed, road dampness and the turns you'll be executing while riding. Trying to turn on wet leaves are like riding on ice because that's how they

affect traction and can cause loss of control with potentially lethal consequences.

If you come across them in the road always assume they're damp or wet, control your speed and keep your bike in a straight line and as upright and a straight line through a curve as you can until the leaf hazard is behind you.

If possible avoid riding over groups of leaves not only because of traction issues but they could be covering a pot hole or some other unseen hazard. If you're out riding early in the morning be wary of leaves on the road in shady areas because of dew soaking into them.

Since Autumn is upon us and the season progresses so will the potential dangers.

Our JOB # 1 is to be acutely aware of our surroundings, be pre-

pared and dress accordingly, ride cautiously and do what we do best.... have a blast riding together or alone and letting the good times roll !!!!

MARK.

