

SAFETY CORNER

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Wear the Right Gear



When you ride, your gear is “right” if it protects you. In any crash, you have a far better chance of avoiding serious injury if you wear:

- A. A DOT compliant helmet
- B. Face or eye protection
- C. Protective clothing

Helmet use:

Crashes can occur particularly among untrained, beginning riders. And one out of every five motorcycle crashes result in head or neck injuries. Head injuries are just as severe as neck injuries and are far more common. Crash analysis show that head and neck injuries account for a majority of serious and fatal injuries to motorcyclists. Research also shows that, with a few exceptions, head and neck injuries are reduced by properly wearing a quality helmet.

Face or eye protection:

A plastic shatter resistant face shield can help protect your whole face in a crash. It also protects you from wind, dust, dirt, rain, insects and pebbles. Those problems are distracting and can be painful. Goggles protect your eyes, though they won't protect the rest of your face. A windshield is not a substitute for a face shield. To be effective, eye or face shield protection must be free of scratches, be resistant to penetration, and give a clear view.

Protective Clothing:

The right clothing protects you in a collision. It also provides comfort as well as protection from heat, cold, debris and hot moving parts of the motorcycle. Jackets and pants should cover the arms and legs completely. They should fit snugly enough to move freely. Leather offers the most protection. Boots or shoes should be high and sturdy enough to cover your ankles and give them support. Soles should be made of a hard, durable, slip-resistant material.

The whole purpose in the above protections is to help keep you safe and alive to enjoy riding your motorcycle.