

Safety Tip Hodge Podge

Mark Welch — Safety Officer



I was going to write an article about cold weather riding but while researching the topic, I noticed that our chapter has had an article on that almost every year. So instead, I will take the opportunity to provide a plethora (I

learned that word from Three Amigos) of safety tips for riding your motorcycle.

Be visible. This means getting away from the black clothes we all like to wear and embrace brightly covered clothes. Remember, we live in Florida, the retirement capital of the world which means there are a lot of drivers whose eyesight and reaction time are not what they used to be. So we need to do whatever we can to be seen. Harley has been including reflective striping in some of their clothing which will help you to be more visible. You can also add reflective material to your bike and helmet. Or add additional lights like Fred Fryer!

Dress for success. Wear a quality helmet and eye protection. Don't forget to wear sturdy over the ankle shoes and full fingered gloves. Wear leather or thick clothing when riding. There is a saying for motorcyclists, "Dress for the slide, not for the ride."

Apply an effective mental strategy. You should be constantly looking for changing traffic and road conditions. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation uses SEE for Search, Evaluate, Execute. Evaluate the things that you notice while searching to determine what influence they may

have on your ability to ride safe. Then adjust your speed, lane position, or both while communicating intentions. (No, Wes, not the single digit salute.) When slowing or stopping, consider pressing and releasing your brake lever twice before applying both brakes. This will cause your brake light to go on and off twice before the steady light, attracting the attention of those behind you.

Intersections and curves are the most dangerous places for motorcyclists. When approaching an intersection, slow down and cover the controls in the event you have to take evasive actions. When approaching a curve, reduce your speed and look through the curve to make certain there is nothing that would impede your path of

travel. As you turn, maintain or, even better, increase your speed to provide stability to the motorcycle.

Inspect your motorcycle before each ride. As the temperature cools, you will notice the air pressure in your tires will drop.



Carry a first aid kit.

If you drink, don't ride and if you ride, don't drink.

It has been my pleasure to have been the safety officer for our HOG chapter. I appreciate all the recommendations that were important to you and you sharing them with me to research and report back what I learned. I know the best is yet to come when the new safety officer takes over next year!

Head and eyes,

Mark