

SAFETY CORNER

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YEAR END SAFETY SUMMARY

Greetings All! Seems like we just got into January 2024 and here we are with Christmas looming two weeks ahead! Is it just me or is the calendar on steroids?

Year end I'd just like to review some of the topics we covered this year. I'm sure most of us are familiar with

the following, but there could be that one who is not.

Maintain your bike!

Check tire pressure when tires are cold and add air if necessary to the cold air pressure statement on the sidewall.

. Keep watch as your tires wear. Know where the wear bars are located on your tires and how to tell if those tires will soon need to be replaced.

. Look for nails or any foreign object on the tire that may cause the tire to leak and go flat.

Inspect for sidewall cracking on older tires. Those garage queen bikes are known for dry rotted tires!

Know how to tell when your tires were made. There's a four digit number on the sidewall in an inset. The first two digits will be the week and the last two digits will be the year. So, if it's 1518, the tire was manufactured during the 15th week of 2018. You want to avoid riding on tires beyond six years old.

Check and be sure all lighting is working. Do this as often as possible. A bulb can blow at any time. Most new bikes have LED lights, or light emitting diodes. This type of light normally lasts much longer than standard bulbs.

. Tap the horn button! You may not have used it in a while.

. Check your engine oil! There are two full marks on the dipstick. One shows full when the bike is leaning left on its jiffy stand. The other shows full for when the bike is straight up on a jack. If you change oil at 5000 miles, chances are good that you'll need to add oil by 3000 miles to top it off. Be careful to not overfill!

On older or high roller bikes, check the forks for signs of leakage along the seals. Also, look at the brake hoses for cracking.

Group Riding . We do a lot of this!

Stay in your chosen lane! Don't go across lanes when turning corners or rounding curves.

Keep a safe and proper distance from the bike in front of you, and the bike diagonally ahead of you. It is recommended that you are two seconds behind the bike ahead in your lane, and one second behind the bike diagonally ahead in the opposite lane.

If you're right handed, be sure to not sit to the left of a left handed person in a restaurant. This could become a sticky situation. Merry Christmas!

Riding in General

Stay back! A cushion of safety is always in your favor! Don't crowd the vehicle ahead of you at the light! Leave yourself an out! We heard this somewhere before. Keep an eye in the mirror. Someone approaching from behind is texting or eating chicken and hasn't noticed that the traffic has stopped and they're going to rear end that bike! You saw that coming and you were able to exit your position to the left or right and avoid being a statistic! Good Job!

. Stay Back! Keep a far following distance! Get the big picture. You can't see what's going on up ahead if the vehicle in front of you is taking up your complete field of view. Back Off as Yosemite Sam says! That vehicle ahead will become smaller and you'll be able to see around it easier.

Stay where you can see mirrors! Avoid riding in the grease strip in the center of the lane. Not only could it be slippery, it can also be a great place for road hazards to hide.

Be sure that you can be seen by drivers waiting to turn left approaching you. Move to your left, don't hide behind the vehicle in front of you. Same thing with vehicles on the right that are waiting to enter the road that you're rolling on. Move to your right to be certain that they see you, if they're even looking! Blacked out windows make it very difficult to be sure.

Oversized Vehicles! Stay away from them! Re-capped tires on the rear of trucks very rarely come apart, but they do. And when they do, you don't want to be around! Again, stay where you can see the mirrors on these vehicles. Most of these drivers are professional, but there's always that one distracted driver so we must exercise caution. Be especially careful when riding near class A motorhomes/Full sized bus campers. Oftentimes you might observe one of these land yachts having difficulty maintaining its position in lane.

Lastly, and I could go on and on, watch your speed. Don't just show up without even being seen as you approach. Driver states "I stopped, I looked left, right, and left again, I never saw the motorcycle coming until he hit my right door. I'm really sorry, Officer". Don't be that rider!

This is meant to highlight some of the hazards I've observed over the many years. I hope in some small way that something I mentioned here will be of a help to you.

Safety is of the Lord
Proverbs 21:31