

Just want to get something off my mind - there is something that just strikes a nerve with me every time I see someone like this - a motorcyclist who wears a helmet and is also wearing shorts, tennis shoes and a t-shirt. What the hell are you protecting? Definitely not your brain, for if you do wipe out, all that would be left would be your head.

You who ride this way are people who are brainwashed by the government and television. You obviously cannot think for yourself and only do what you are told. Now there are exceptions, like if you are underage, just have a permit or live in a required helmet law state. If the law requires you to wear a helmet be smart enough to wear the other protective gear as well.

Which makes me bring up our freedom in this country or should I say; "our illusion of freedom." It should be your personal choice to wear or to not wear a helmet, not the government making you wear one. It is like having the choice of what type of motorcycle you ride; fortunately my choice is between my three Harley Davidson's.

This brings up my acronym shown below on Harley Davidson. I believe is the true meaning.

H A R L E Y D A V I D S O N
e m i o v e e g o n e e u a
l e d b e a f a t n l r t
m r e b r r e i e i l i
e i r y y n n r a i o
t c s d s s l n o
l a i t g
e n n o
s g f
s

By: Feathercloud and Boozey
Read more of my poems at www.feathercloud.com

This is a letter to the editor from the January, 2008, AMA magazine, American Motorcyclist. Lack of Coverage

I am writing to let you know what my employer has done with our health insurance, starting January 1, 2008. As stated in their cover letter announcing this change, "medical expenses relating to motorcycle usage are excluded in 2008."

My employer is not a small company, employing approximately 2,000 people. I

have contacted other people in the company who are also motorcyclists, and they cannot believe that they won't have insurance for riding a motorcycle. We are all facing the same situation, with no health-insurance coverage in case of a cycle accident. During the summer months, the motorcycles are our primary transportation to and from work, along with leisure riding on weekends and vacation trips.

By reading the ABATE newspaper and American Motorcyclist every month, I know that you are working on H.R. 1076, the HIPAA Recreational Injury Technical Correction Act, in the U.S. House, and companion legislation, S. 616, in the Senate, which would end health-care insurance discrimination against motorcyclists.

In the meantime, we cannot ride without insurance. What guidance can you give us? Are there any insurance companies that offer affordable supplemental health insurance that will cover us while we ride our motorcycles? In checking with our motorcycle insurance company, they can only offer a \$1,000 health insurance policy.

Brenda Bengtson- Medford, WI

Riding in the Snow and Ice

If it was not such a warm day (despite the snow), he'd want his face covered to prevent being chilled in a hurry.


If you get caught in a snowstorm, don't panic. Riding on snow just requires you to slow down, be very smooth, and allow plenty of distance to stop. Make ultragentle inputs with brakes, clutch, steering and throttle. Make sure no one is following too closely. Falling down at low speed on a slick surface probably won't hurt you, but if the car behind you can't stop or doesn't know how, it will be nasty. Also, don't expect drivers to recognize how precarious things are. Falling snow will make you harder to see and they will cut you off, turn in front of you, and stop without warning. Unless it's a light, brief snow or you are close to home, head for the closest motel or eatery, or the quickest way out of the storm. (Go back down the mountain, for example.)

The other hazard of cold weather is ice. Watch out for those bridges that freeze before the roads do, and be alert for black ice in shady areas. More than one rider I know has crashed on unseen ices in Southern California's canyons on winter nights. If you must cross an icy patch or even a suspected one, keep the bike slow, straight and steady, and minimize the inputs as mentioned above. Squeezing in the clutch and free-wheeling across the ice will keep you from applying either too much or too little power to the rear wheel. As a rule, you will be steadier with your feet on the pegs or floorboards than dragging them. Also watch for sand placed in corners to deal with the ice.

If you have the proper gear and avoid the slick spots, riding in cold weather can be as comfortable and fun as riding on warm days. And the investment you make in cold-weather gear simply enhances your investment in your bike.

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