

Safety tips

****Ride trained/Ride licensed** – Getting motorcycle rider training is of great value to beginners and experienced riders to learn about motorcycle operation and how to reduce the risks of riding a motorcycle. Information about motorcycle training is available through the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Ohio office at 1-800-83-RIDER, or on the Web at www.motorcycle.ohio.gov, or at select motorcycle dealerships.

****Ride sober** – Riding a motorcycle takes coordination, balance, and good judgment. In 2005, approximately 50 percent of all Ohio fatal crashes in which a motorcycle rider was at fault were alcohol-related. Riding "under the influence" of alcohol poses physical and legal hazards for everyone on the road. Learn more through the AMA's national Ride Straight program at www.ridestraight.com.

****Troopers are stressing the importance of drivers being aware of motorcyclists.** Other vehicle drivers were in error in nearly 48 percent of the 2005 motorcyclist fatalities in Ohio. When driving, please be aware of motorcyclists by taking extra precautions when changing lanes, checking blind spots, taking extra time and paying attention at intersections.

Source: Ohio Highway Patrol.

BIG BROTHER IN OUR FACE AGAIN: Because of an increase in motorcycle deaths, state law enforcement, motorcycle safety and motorcycle industry folks have joined together to form a "task force" to address the issue.

This new hoo-hah was sparked by the death of a ten year- old who died when he got on a motorcycle with a cape tied around his neck. It got tangled in the spokes of the rear wheel. The MSF has a booklet with safety instructions, but it cannot cover everything! When are folks gonna use some COMMON SENSE in their daily lives? This was an absolutely preventable tragedy, and more laws won't prevent this sort of stupidity.



BUSH, H-D and INDIA:

Remember when President Bush visited India recently? It was in the news -- he'd said he was "looking forward to eating Indian mangoes," or words close to it. Apparently, it was a tit-for-tat trade deal: Bush agreed to lift a ban on importing mangoes from India (fear of bugs I reckon, but now they'll irradiate the mangoes first to kill the bugs), reportedly in return for India allowing Harley-Davidson motorcycles onto Indian roads. Thing is, recent reports from Indian media claim that H-D sez they won't be selling bikes there yet anyway, because the tariffs are too high! Sheesh! Could be because they manufacture more bikes in India than we do here in the USA, by far.

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