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## May is Motorcycle Safety Month

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Posted Monday, May 5th 2014 @ 10am by KFBK News

May is Motorcycle Safety month.

With more people choosing a motorcycle as their mode of transportation, California Highway Patrol, Office of Traffic Safety and the Department of Motor Vehicles are embarking on a month-long endeavor to encourage all motorists to safely share the road.

This month's traffic safety campaign follows a significant increase in the number of people killed in motorcycle-involved collisions in California.

Lorett Kinnicutt-Rogers of RideWell Motorcycle Training asks drivers to remain vigilant of those enjoying a two wheel experience.

Part of the problem is that most drivers don't see us or they don't pay attention to how close we really are because we're smaller, we look further away,' says Lorett.

**The CHP, DMV and OTS offer the following tips for drivers to help keep motorcyclists safe on our roadways:**

- Remember, a motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle. The person under that helmet could be a mother, brother, doctor, or friend.
- Perform a regular visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or exiting a lane of traffic, at intersections, and pulling out of driveways and parking lots. Always look twice before pulling out.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals are often not self-canceling. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
- Allow more following distance - three or four seconds - when behind a motorcycle to give the motorcyclist time to maneuver around obstacles in the roadway or stop in an emergency.

**Motorcyclists can increase their safety by:**

- Wearing a DOT-compliant helmet.
- Never riding while impaired.
- Using turn signals for every turn or lane change, even if the rider thinks no one will see it.
- Signaling intentions by combining hand signals and turn signals to draw more attention to themselves.
- Assuming drivers can't see them. Wearing brightly colored protective gear and using reflective tape and stickers to make sure they are seen.
- Positioning themselves in the lane where they will be most visible to other drivers.
- Not accelerating too quickly, since drivers turning ahead might not notice until too late.



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