



City of Mosinee Police Department

225 Main Street, Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455 715/693-2000 Fax:715/693-1324 www.mosinee.wi.us

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May is National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

With winter weather finally over, motorcyclists are ready to kick off this year's riding season. More than 515,000 Wisconsin residents have motorcycle licenses or permits and more than 390,000 motorcycles are registered in the state, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. As motorcycles continue to grow in popularity among men and women of all ages, safety is a constant concern. Last year, 84 motorcycle riders and passengers died in Wisconsin traffic crashes, which was a 28 percent decrease from 2012 when 116 riders and passengers died in crashes.

"During National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, we're reminding drivers to share the road and watch for motorcycles especially at intersections and while making turns and lane changes." Drivers frequently misjudge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle because of its smaller dimensions. To prevent crashes, drivers should check the position of a motorcycle at least two or three times before they proceed through an intersection or make a turn.

To protect themselves and others on the road, motorcyclists need to get trained and ensure they have the legally required motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license. About 35 percent of motorcyclists' fatalities from 2003 to 2012 in Wisconsin involved riders who had not completed the safety training or skills test required to obtain a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license.

"Too many people have been riding for years without a valid motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license." It's a serious problem especially for those who have not ridden a motorcycle for several years and are beginning to ride again. Riding a motorcycle requires more physical skill and mental concentration than driving a car, so training is critical to a motorcyclist's safety.

In addition motorcyclists should always wear protective and conspicuous clothing and gear, including a helmet that meets or exceeds US DOT standards. Tragically, nearly three out of four motorcyclists who died in crashes last year in Wisconsin were not wearing helmets.

Now more than ever, we need well-trained and responsible motorcycle riders along with motorists who share the road to help reach the goal of reducing the number of preventable traffic deaths to Zero In Wisconsin."

Chief Ken Muelling
Mosinee Police Department