



**Motorcycle Safety Month Planner
Sample OP-ED ARTICLE**

Would You Know How to Treat an Injured Motorcyclist?

Area Training Event to Kick Off May's Motorcycle Safety Month, the start of the prime riding season

Bystander education is integral to helping reduce the number of motorcyclists killed each year on our Nation's highways. As a result, [Organization] is joining with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to host a special "first on the scene of a motorcycle crash" training event.

Motorcycle fatalities in the United States have risen steadily for years. According to (NHTSA, 3,661 motorcyclists were killed in crashes in 2003; projected motorcycle fatalities for 2004 total about 3,927. These numbers represent a 7.3 percent increase in motorcycle fatalities in just a single year — and the seventh year in a row that motorcycle rider fatalities have increased. Even more alarming, the number of motorcyclists killed annually on our Nation's roadways has increased 85 percent since 1997.

As in any life-threatening vehicle crash, the immediate and skilled care of an injured motorcyclist can mean the difference between life and death. Until emergency medical help arrives on the scene, this care is often left to untrained bystanders.

First There, First Care is a NHTSA training program designed to help medical professionals, such as EMS personnel and nurses, teach people basic lifesaving techniques to use in the event they are "first on the scene" of a vehicle crash. Recently this program has been expanded to include the specialized skills necessary to provide lifesaving "first care" to an injured motorcyclist. As a kickoff to National Motorcycle Safety Month and the start of the warm weather riding season, [organization] is hosting an event to teach the special skills necessary to aid an injured motorcyclist.