

# 2006 Motorcycle Safety Month Planner

## Sample News Release

**Note:** Before filling in the names of the organization and the organization's spokesperson, you *MUST* contact them to obtain their permission to use their names in this press release. You must also get their approval for the language of their quotations, and any changes or additions they may require. You should send out the press release only after this is done.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]**

**CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number]**

### Be Prepared for the Spring 2006 Riding Season

Spring has sprung and for many riders across the country, the breezes are blowing warmer, the trees and the flowers are in bloom. However, that rumbling sound isn't thunder from a spring shower; it's the roar of motorcycles returning to the road for the 2006 riding season.

Whether you hit the road by yourself or join others for a benefit ride, expo, or motorcycle festival, don't forget to prepare yourself and your motorcycle for the new riding season:

#### Wear a helmet and other protective gear:

- Protective gear serves three purposes for motorcyclists:
  - comfort and protection from the elements;
  - injury prevention; and
  - through the use of color or reflective material, a means for other motorists to see the motorcyclist.
- **Helmets:** This is the most important piece of safety equipment. Safety helmets that comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 save lives by preventing or reducing the extent of head injuries in the event of a crash.
- **Eye Protection:** Since many motorcyclists don't have windshields, riders must protect their eyes against insects, dirt, rocks, or other airborne matter. Even the wind can cause the eyes to tear and blur vision, and good vision is imperative when riding. Choose good-quality goggles, glasses with plastic or safety lenses, or a helmet equipped with a face shield.
- **Jackets and Trousers:** Jackets should have long sleeves and be made of heavy-weight, durable material like leather or denim.
- **Gloves:** Durable gloves should be a non-slip type to permit a firm grip on the controls.
- **Footwear:** Proper over-the-ankle footwear should be worn.

#### Never mix motorcycles and alcohol.

Alcohol affects those skills essential to operate a motorcycle – balance and coordination. Alcohol and motorcycling are a deadly combination. In 2004, 28 percent of all fatally injured motorcycle operators had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher. An additional 6 percent had lower alcohol levels (BAC .01 to .07 g/dL).

#### Make sure that your motorcycle is road-ready.

Check your tire pressures to make sure that they are set correctly. You should also inspect your motorcycle for loose chains, and make sure that the clutch, brake and other control positions are set correctly.

**Consider taking an experienced rider course.**

This is a safe way to hone your rider skills and to learn more about safely interacting in different traffic situations.