



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH 2025 TALKING POINTS

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, observed each May, serves as a crucial initiative to address motorcycle safety by promoting responsible riding practices and fostering collaboration among riders, motorists, and safety advocates. By uniting communities and emphasizing the importance of vigilance and shared responsibility on the roads, this campaign aims to reduce preventable tragedies and enhance safety for all road users.

Our Commitment

Florida has over 700,000 registered motorcycles with over 1 million endorsed riders. Annually, Florida has over 500 motorcycle fatalities and over 8,000 motorcycle-related crashes. Florida continually ranks in the top three states in the nation for motorcycle-related fatalities; using data compiled by The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FHSMV) and the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research, it is evident that a safety education plan for riders and Florida drivers is necessary.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FHSMV) launched the **Florida Motorcycle Safety Program (FMSP)** in collaboration with **American Bikers Aiming Towards Education (ABATE) of Florida, Inc.**, the **Latin American Motorcycle Association (L.A.M.A.) Inc.**, and the **American Legion – Department of Florida, Inc. (ALR)**. By uniting our strengths, we can take a comprehensive and impactful approach to promoting motorcycle safety and work towards making roads safer for riders across Florida.

FMSP aims to significantly reduce the number of motorcycle crashes and fatalities on Florida roads. We are passionate about increasing public awareness of motorcycle safety and promoting responsible riding practices.

Overall Awareness

** Data compiled by the The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FHSMV) and the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).*

- Motorcyclists are among Florida's most vulnerable road users. Although they make up just 3% of registered vehicles, they account for a disproportionate number of serious injuries and fatalities.
- In 2023 alone, Florida reported 9,548 motorcycle crashes, leading to 621 lives lost.
- Florida remains one of the top states in the nation for motorcycle-related crashes and fatalities.
- May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month—an essential time to remind riders and drivers of their roles in creating safer roadways.

Life's a JOURNEY, Ride it Well. | CHECK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES.

FL-MSP.com | info@fl-msp.com | 17220 Camelot Court, Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

@FloridaMotorcycleSafetyProgram @FLMotorcycleSafety @FloridaMotorcycleSafetyProgram



Motorcycle Safety & Practices

- Defensive riding saves lives—assume other drivers may not see you and always have an escape plan.
- Lane positioning matters—ride where you are most visible and avoid blind spots.
- Maintain a safe following distance—motorcycles can stop faster than cars, so give yourself space to react.
- Check your bike before every ride—inspect tires, brakes, lights, and fluid levels to ensure your motorcycle is road-ready.
- Take a motorcycle safety course—even experienced riders benefit from training that sharpens skills and teaches crash-avoidance techniques.

Proper Safety Gear

- A helmet is your best protection—wear a DOT-compliant helmet to reduce the risk of severe head injury.
- In Florida, motorcycle riders under 21 must wear helmets, but riders 21 and older can choose not to if they have at least \$10,000 in medical insurance.
- In 2023, 50% of motorcycle fatalities in Florida involved riders without helmets.
- Bright and reflective gear enhances visibility—wear colors that make you stand out to other road users, especially at night.
- Riding gloves and sturdy boots provide essential protection—they improve grip and reduce the risk of injury in a crash.
- Protect your eyes and face—wear a full-face helmet or protective eyewear to shield against wind, debris, and insects.
- Dress for the slide, not just the ride—abrasion-resistant jackets and pants offer added protection in case of a crash.

Motorist Safety Practices & Tips

- Look twice for motorcycles—they are smaller and harder to see, especially at intersections and when changing lanes.
- Give motorcycles extra space—maintain at least a four-second following distance to avoid rear-ending a rider.
- Check blind spots before merging or turning, as motorcycles can easily be hidden by a vehicle's side pillars or mirrors.
- Avoid distractions behind the wheel—texting, eating, or adjusting the radio can distract you from the road and endanger motorcyclists.
- Never drive impaired—alcohol and drugs slow reaction time, impair judgment, and increase the risk of serious crashes.

Life's a JOURNEY, Ride it Well. | CHECK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES.

FL-MSP.com | info@fl-msp.com | 17220 Camelot Court, Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

@FloridaMotorcycleSafetyProgram @FLMotorcycleSafety @FloridaMotorcycleSafetyProgram






Helpful Resources

- [Ride Smart Florida](#)
- [Ride Smart Florida Gear Guide](#)
- [Ride Smart Florida Safety Courses \(S.M.A.R.T.\)](#)
- [Ride Smart Florida Data Hub](#)
- [Florida Motorcycle Laws](#)
- [FDOT Motorcycle Safety Awareness](#)
- [FLHSMV Motorcycle Rider Education & Endorsements](#)
- [FLHSMV Motorcycle Safety Awareness](#)
- [FLHSMV "Share the Road" Initiative](#)
- [FLHSMV's Florida Motorcycle Safety Program](#)
- [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#)
- [NHTSA Motorcycle Safety](#)

Life's a JOURNEY, Ride it Well. | CHECK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES.

FL-MSP.com | info@fl-msp.com | 17220 Camelot Court, Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

 @FloridaMotorcycleSafetyProgram  @FLMotorcycleSafety  @FloridaMotorcycleSafetyProgram