



PRESS RELEASE

I. **DATE OF PRESS RELEASE:** May 10, 2012

II. **Livermore Police to support Motorcycle Safety Awareness month in May.**

During the month of May, the Livermore Police Department will be focusing on motorcycle safety.

In the last three years, there have been 65 collisions involving motorcycles within the City of Livermore, 53 of which involved injuries. During 2011, motorcycle collisions saw an increase to 27 collisions from 21 in 2010. Out of those 27 collisions, two motorcycle riders lost their lives. In California, between 2007 and 2009, 1467 motorcycle riders lost their lives in traffic collisions.

In order to help encourage drivers to "Share the Road," the Livermore Police Department is joining with other Federal, State and Local highway safety, law enforcement, and motorcycle organizations to proclaim May 2012 as "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month." All motorists are reminded to safely "Share the Road" with motorcycles and to be extra alert when driving to help keep motorcyclists safe.

Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle drivers in the event of a crash. Research shows that approximately 80 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill a motorcycle rider, while only 20 percent of passenger car crashes injure or kill a motor vehicle driver or passenger.

During the month of May, the Livermore Police Department will host a Motorcycle Safety Awareness event at Carnegie Park (3rd at S. 'J' St). This event will take place on Saturday, May 12, from 10am to 3pm. There will be vendors, displays, civilian rider course, slow races, and a demonstration by the LPD Motorcycle Unit. This event is free and open to the public.

Here are several important 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 on the roadway.
- Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections;
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;
- Remember that road conditions that are minor annoyances to other vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists;
- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too, by following the rules of the roadway, being alert to other

drivers, and always wearing DOT-compliant helmets and protective gear, motorcyclists can reduce the frequency and severity of injury collisions.

All too often after a motorcycle involved collision, the drivers of other involved vehicles say they never saw the motorcyclist and were unable to respond in time. This is no excuse. Too many crashes are occurring and too many lives are being lost.

The Livermore Police Department enforcement efforts will be focused on unsafe riding by motorcyclists as well as drivers making unsafe actions, jeopardizing the safety of the motoring public.

CONTACT PERSON: Officer Justin Lash
PHONE NUMBER: 925-371-4850