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KDOT reminds drivers: Motorcycle safety is everyone's responsibility

Topeka — The Kansas Department of Transportation is teaming up with law enforcement across the state to highlight Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month during May and remind motorists that motorcyclist safety is everyone's responsibility.

The end of May ushers in the unofficial start of the summer road travel season. Safe driving and riding practices for all road users — drivers and riders alike — are critical to help reduce motorcycle/vehicle crashes.

"Everyone on the road has a role to play in reducing motorcycle fatalities. Vehicle drivers and motorcyclists need to share the road and treat each other with respect and courtesy," said Robyn Meinholdt, KDOT Behavior Safety Coordinator. "Drivers need to look twice for bikes. Motorcyclists can help improve their own safety and visibility with protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet."

A total of 726 people were injured in the 814 crashes involving a motorcycle in Kansas in 2022, according to current KDOT data. In addition, 47 of those crashes were fatal, with 50 people losing their lives.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speeding and alcohol impairment play significant roles in motorcycle-involved crash fatalities across the nation.

"Traffic safety is critical to all motorists, including those driving motorcycles," Meinholdt said. "It doesn't matter if you are traveling in a vehicle or on a motorcycle, all drivers need to follow posted speed limits and not drive if impaired. It can be the difference between life and death."

Motorcyclists are encouraged to complete a rider education and training course to learn more ways to increase safety for everyone on the roadways. For more information on motorcycle safety, visit www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/motorcycles.

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