

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

(KLZA) -- May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month and the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) is reminding all motorists of the need to “share the road” in order to prevent motorcycle crashes, deaths and injuries.

“The warmer weather typically means an increase in motorcycle traffic on our roadways,” said Colonel David Sankey, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. “Motorists are reminded to be alert at all times. By increasing our awareness, we can help to prevent crashes.”

According to statistics from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, to date in 2014, three people have been killed in crashes involving motorcycles. During 2013, 14 people lost their lives in motorcycle crashes on Nebraska roads.

The NSP reminds the motoring public that motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the road. With a much smaller profile, motorcycles are often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot or missed in a quick look. Motorists are encouraged to always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors or blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

Motorcyclists are reminded they must obey the same rules of the road as the rest of the motoring public. Nebraska law requires motorcycle riders and passengers to wear a DOT-compliant helmet.

A Class M (motorcycle) license or Class M endorsement on a regular operator’s license is also required.

Colonel Sankey said, “Sharing the road means watching out for each other. Please do your part to help keep our roads safe.”