



NEWS RELEASE

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TXDOT URGES DRIVERS TO ‘SHARE THE ROAD,’ HELP CURB STATEWIDE INCREASE IN MOTORCYCLE FATALITIES

As more motorcycles take to the road, fatalities up 6 percent last year

April 27, 2017

AUSTIN – In an effort to curb an increase in motorcycle fatalities on Texas roads, the Texas Department of Transportation is launching its “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign as part of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May. The campaign implores drivers to watch closely for motorcycles, especially at intersections and when changing lanes.

“Part of our responsibility as motorists is to always be aware of other vehicles on the road and to give them plenty of space,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “Motorcycles are particularly vulnerable because they can be difficult to see and don’t have the standard safety features found in cars and trucks. On a motorcycle, even a relatively minor collision can be fatal, so we’re urging drivers to please keep an eye out for their fellow motorists.”

Motorcyclists are nearly 5 times more likely to be injured and 29 times more likely to be killed in a crash than car or truck occupants.ⁱ More than half (54 percent) of fatal motorcycle crashes result from a collision with a car or truck.ⁱⁱ From 2015 to 2016, Texas motorcycle fatalities increased from 464 to 493 (6 percent), and crashes resulting in seriously injured motorcyclists increased from 1,902 to 2,006 (5 percent). The summer months have the highest incidences of motorcycle crashes.ⁱⁱⁱ TxDOT’s “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign reminds drivers to:

- Always use turn signals.
- Give motorcycles plenty of space and don’t follow too closely.
- Check mirrors before changing lanes.
- Give motorcyclists a full lane.

This year’s “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign will conduct outreach events inviting visitors to participate in activities that highlight motorcycle safety. Campaign tour stops are:

- April 27 – Austin (statewide launch)
- April 29 – San Antonio
- April 30 – Houston
- May 6 – Waco
- May 18 – El Paso
- May 27 – Dallas

To learn more about the campaign, visit LookTwiceTexas.com or visit TxDOT’s website at txdot.gov. You can also follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/TxDOT and on Twitter at twitter.com/txdot.

For media inquiries, contact TxDOT Media Relations at MediaRelations@txdot.gov or (512) 463-8700.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of March 8, 2017.

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The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods. Find out more at txdot.gov.

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ⁱ NHTSA, Traffic Safety Facts (2015 Data), March 2017

ⁱⁱ NHTSA, Traffic Safety Facts (2015 Data), December 2016

ⁱⁱⁱ TTI Crash Overview Fact Sheet, September 2016