



## **Traffic Safety News**

### ***From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety***

### **March 2012**

Whether it is the warmer temperatures or soaring gas prices, motorcyclists have taken to the roads across Delaware. That is why OHS is reminding motorists to be alert for motorcycles and reminding motorcyclists to ride smart.

#### **What you need to know**

Last year, Delaware experienced a spike in motorcycle deaths. June was the worst month last year, with 7 total deaths. What you need to know:

- 18 people were killed in motorcycle crashes in 2011 (compared to 8 total deaths in 2010)
- Only 6 of the 18 fatalities wore a helmet (33%)
- 4 of the motorcycle crashes were alcohol-related.
- The average age of the person killed was 46.

#### **What you can do**

For the motorist: Be alert for motorcycles:

- Always look twice before turning into traffic.
- Be vigilant when changing lanes.
- Always follow the posted speed limits.
- Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

For the motorcyclist: Ride smart

- Have the proper endorsement on your drivers' license.
- Know your bike and how it handles under different conditions.
- Wear all appropriate safety gear.
- Keep a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Be aware of blind spots.
- Use proper lane position.
- Be alert for debris, wet surfaces, and uneven pavement.
- Ride sober.
- Obey the posted speed limits.

**Drive Safe. Arrive Alive DE.**

*This message is being sent to you the Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to [www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov).*