



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Improving Motorcycle Safety the Aim of OC Sheriff's Operation

SANTA ANA, Calif. (Jan. 20, 2017) – The Orange County Sheriff's Department will conduct a specialized Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation on Jan. 21, 2017 in an effort to lower deaths and injuries from collisions.

Extra deputies will patrol areas frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle crashes occur to crack down on vehicle drivers and motorcyclists violating traffic safety laws.

Motorcycle fatalities in California jumped by more than 28 percent from a decade low of 352 in 2010. In 2013, 453 motorcyclists lost their lives, marking the highest number of fatalities in a five-year period. California collision data shows the primary causes of motorcycle-involved crashes include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs by riders and drivers alike.

Operations like this are aimed at curbing the rise in motorcycle fatalities and driving the number back down. Over the last three years, motorcycle-involved collisions have resulted in 288 fatal and injury crashes in the Orange County Sheriff's Department's jurisdiction. The Sheriff's Department encourages drivers and motorcyclists to do your part by safely sharing the road.

Safety tips for riders – See and Be Seen:

- Use your lane position to increase visibility; change lanes only when there is ample room
- Match your speed to surrounding traffic
- Always wear a DOT compliant helmet and brightly colored, protective clothing
- Ride with lights on during daylight hours

Safety tips for drivers – Share the Road:

- Look twice for motorcyclists, especially when entering the roadway, turning or changing lanes
- Motorcyclist are allowed in HOV lanes unless prohibited by signage

Riders are urged to get training through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at <http://www.californiamotorcyclist.com/> or 1-877 RIDE 411 (1-877-743-3411).

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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