



**STATE SAFETY OFFICE**  
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110



## **SAFETY MESSAGE 19-08**

### **May is Motorcycle Safety Month**

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month. Riders have already taken advantage of the warmer weather and been out on rides. As always, the NYARNG Safety Office is prepared to support safe riding practices for Soldiers around the state. The link below will take you to the Safety Office's Motorcycle Safety page. There you will find information on available safety training courses, operator courses, and information on safety checks for your motorcycle.

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/?id=cycle>

Throughout Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the National Safety Council (NSC) encourages motorists to share the road with motorcyclists and be extra alert when they are nearby. NSC's tips include:

- Choose a bike that fits you; "supersport bikes" have driver death rates about four times that of cruisers or standard bikes, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- Invest in antilock brakes
- New riders should take a motorcycle safety course, and experienced riders should take refresher courses after being off their bikes for a while
- Know the rules of the road
- Be aware that riding with a passenger requires considerably more skill
- Never drink and ride
- Drive defensively, especially at intersections, where half of all collisions occur
- Watch for hazards like potholes, manhole covers, oil slicks, puddles, debris, railroad tracks and gravel
- Assume you are invisible to other motorists and position yourself to be seen
- Use headlights day and night

- Be courteous; don't weave in and out of lanes, or ride on the shoulder or between lanes
- Don't speed
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing that is durable and boots that cover the ankles
- Wear goggles, glasses or use a face shield that is ventilated to prevent fogging, and make sure it's clear if riding at night

Visit the NSC's website for more motorcycle safety information:

<https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/safety-topics/motorcycle-safety>

Safely enjoying your motorcycle is the goal. Leaders should be aware of Soldiers in their formations who are riders. Units should provide motorcycle safety briefings in order to continue to bring awareness to the dangers inherent to riding. **FY19 fatalities are seven**, let's do our part to help eliminate them.

**To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:**

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

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