



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

As the weather warms up, the Visalia Police Department is reminding everyone to stay alert and share the road safely with motorcyclists. With more riders out enjoying the roads, it's critical for drivers to take extra precautions to help prevent collisions and save lives.

"Motorcycles can be harder to see, especially in traffic," said Sergeant Henry Martinez. "Take an extra moment to check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes. That quick double check could save a life. Unlike drivers in cars, motorcyclists don't have the same level of protection—so we all need to do our part to keep each other safe."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 6,218 motorcyclists lost their lives in traffic crashes in 2022—accounting for 15% of all highway fatalities that year. In California alone, 634 motorcyclists were killed, a 3.8% increase from 2021.

To help keep everyone safe, here are some important safety tips:

For Drivers:

- Always check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.
- Maintain a safe following distance behind motorcycles.
- If a motorcycle's turn signal is on, wait to see if the rider is actually turning before proceeding.

For Motorcyclists:

- Wear a U.S. DOT-compliant helmet and eye protection.
- Choose sturdy, protective gear like jackets, pants, boots with nonskid soles, and gloves. Use reflective materials on your gear and bike to increase visibility.
- Ride defensively and assume drivers may not see you. Avoid lingering in blind spots.
- Keep your headlights on at all times, even during the day.

For Everyone:

- Never drive or ride distracted.
- Never operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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