



Newsletter

APRIL 2008

Chairperson

Carl A Soderstrom
Chief, Medical Advisory Board
Motor Vehicle Administration

Chair-Elect Vacant

Honorary Chairperson

Carnell Cooper, MD FACS
Prince George's Hospital Center

Board of Advisors

Meena Abraham, DrPH
Center for a Healthy Maryland

Angel Bivens, R.Ph., MBA, CSPI
Maryland Poison Center

Paul R. "Bobby" Balta, Jr
Maryland State Fireman's
Association

Carolyn J. Fowler, PhD, MPH
The Johns Hopkins University,
School of Nursing

Andrea C. Gielen, Sc.D., ScM
Center for Injury Research and
Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health

Robbi Hartsock MSN, RN, PCNP
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma
Center and American Trauma
Society, MD Division

Jon Mark Hirshon, MD MPH
Emergency Medicine
University of Maryland School of
Medicine

Cyndy Wright-Johnson MSN
RNC
Maryland Institute for Emergency
Medical Services Systems

Joy Marowski
Maryland Highway Safety Office
State Highway Administration

Pamela Southall, MD
Office of the Chief Medical
Examiner

Ida J. Williams,
Central Records Division,
Maryland State Police

SHARE THE ROAD

Temperatures are rising, the sun is shining, and motorcyclists are once again taking to the roads. As they do, motorcyclists and car drivers alike can take some simple steps to stay safe on the road.

Proper training, wearing the appropriate safety equipment, and holding a valid motorcycle operator's license are among the best and easiest ways for riders to ensure safe motorcycling.

For motorists, it is time to get used to seeing motorcycles on the road again. Check for motorcyclists in

your blind spot, and be sure to use turn signals. Be particularly aware when making left turns, when changing lanes, or when road conditions may require motorcyclists to take evasive action.

Motorcycle crashes increase during the warm-weather riding season-- May through September-- peaking in June, July, and August. Motorcycle crashes, injuries, and fatalities occur most frequently on Saturdays and Sundays. In Maryland, the number of motorcycle crashes increased from 1,749 in

2005 to 1,804 in 2006; preliminary figures suggest that the increase in crashes and fatalities continued in 2007, following the nationwide trend.

Drivers are generally used to looking for other cars, not for motorcycles. Due to their smaller profile, motorcycles are harder to see, and it is more difficult to estimate their speed. Over two-thirds of car-motorcycle crashes are caused by drivers, not motorcyclists.

This summer, make a point of sharing the road with motorcyclists.

Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

CHAIR-ELECT

As Dr. James Haan pursues new opportunities outside of Maryland, the Partnership for a Safer Maryland is once again soliciting nominations for the position of Chair-elect. Nominations should be sent to the partnership e-mail address no later than April 25, 2008.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Partnership will be hosting its second annual conference:

When: **May 16, 2008**

11:00-2:45

Where: **Sheppard Pratt**

Conference Center

Keynote: **Mari-K Appy**

Home Safety Council

Please look for registration information in your e-mail box or on the Partnership website. Attendance is free but will be limited to the first 100 registrations.



SHARE THE ROAD: IT'S EASY

Advice to Motorists

Respect motorcyclists.

Motorcycles are vehicles with the same privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Give the motorcyclists a full lane of travel.

Look for motorcycles.

Motorcycles are smaller-profile vehicles that are harder to see and whose speeds are more difficult to estimate. Look for motorcycles at intersections, especially before making left turns. Check your blind spots frequently and before changing lanes. Always signal your intentions.

Allow plenty of space.

Traffic, weather and road conditions require the motorcyclists to react and maneuver differently. Allow enough room for the motorcyclists to maneuver and enough time for you to adjust.

Be courteous and respectful.

Being courteous, non-aggressive, and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.



Advice to Motorcyclists

Make yourself visible.

Choose riding gear that increases your visibility in traffic in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash. Use bright colors and retro-reflective strips or decals, especially at night.

Ride so you are seen.

There is no one safe place to ride. Use lane positioning to be seen. Ride with your headlight on and consider using a modulating headlight.

Give yourself space and time to react.

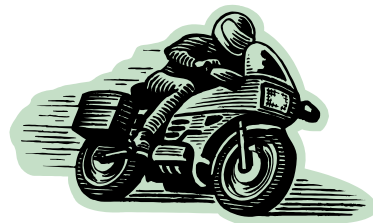
Allow space for emergency braking or for avoiding a crash. Make your lane moves gradually.

Signal your intentions.

Signal before changing lanes. Avoid weaving between lanes. Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.

Be courteous and respect other road users.

Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.



For more information visit:

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration www.mva.state.md.us
The Maryland State Highway Administration www.sha.state.md.us/safety
The Motorcycle Safety Foundation www.msf-usa.org