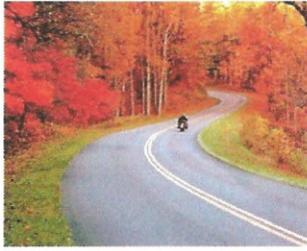


Fall Season Riding Tips



Hello fellow riders. As the riding season is coming to an end for most of us, let's cover a few fall riding safety tips you should keep in mind.

- **Hazard Awareness:** Maintain a constant awareness. Pay attention to even the slightest potential hazard such as driveways, intersections, blind curves, hillcrests, parked cars, children, and animals, vehicles following you, potholes, road debris, and oncoming traffic.
- **Wet Weather:** Carry raingear with you. Riding dry is more comfortable and less distracting. After extended dry periods, a rain will bring up oil from the pavement making the surface very slippery. Watch for standing water, gear up, slow down, create distance, and stay focused.
- **Fallen Leaves:** Leaves can present an unassuming hazard as they can make a roadway slick. People venturing out to see fall colors may be distracted and not fully paying attention to other vehicles, especially watching out for motorcycles. A reduction in speed and maintaining awareness could make all the difference.
- **Deer Season:** Remember that harvested crops, farm equipment, hunters, and breeding season will put deer on the move. Scan the roadway and just off the shoulders for deer and deer crossings. Deer movement routinely peaks at dusk and dawn. Areas where crops or timber are relatively close to the road will present the greatest challenge. These are ideal places for deer to cross and will provide the shortest reaction time.
- **Frost:** Fall brings variable weather conditions. A lot of time the midday temps may be warm and comfortable for riding, but overnight temps may get near freezing. Be cognizant in mornings and evenings, and especially be alert on elevated surfaces such as railroad crossings, bridges, and in shady areas where sunlight might not have melted the frost.
- **Ice:** It's a clear day, you have warm riding gear, and even though the temperature is at or below freezing, you decide to take a motorcycle ride. Even though there hasn't been any rain or snow, ice can form on the roadway very quickly from a number of sources. Fog, spilled beverages and leaking vehicle fluids can result in ice patches.
- **Dress for Success:** Temperatures will drop as the sun begins to set. It's a good idea to carry cold weather gear with you just in case you get detained or simply ride longer than you anticipated. Cold, shivering, or stiff are huge distractions, therefore a safety issue!

Ride safe my friends!

Kevin Manning, Safety Officer