

By: Kevin Manning
Safety Officer

Accessorize For Safety



Safety should be every Harley-Davidson rider's number-one priority. Harley riders need safety gear that a car and truck driver can afford to ignore. As a rider you do not have the luxury of having an automobile or truck body surrounding you. You are one big exposure. Exposure to nature's elements as well as the potential of an incident or accident.

While controversial to some, many lives have been saved simply because the rider was wearing a helmet. Some riders prefer no helmet because they want to feel the full riding experience. Please be sure and know the laws of the states you plan to ride in because some states do require helmets. It's this simple, the tough outer shell of a helmet protects most of the head, while the softer inside material protects the skull and brain.

The same goes for eye protection. Some states require it and some don't,

but statistics show that goggles, face shields, and/or windshields are very beneficial to reducing and even totally preventing certain types of eye and face injuries. Riders should always protect themselves against insects, stones, road debris, etc. Eyesight is precious and needs special attention.

What about boots? Boots are great for protecting feet, shins, and the lower leg. Boots should be oil-resistant, and preferably have a somewhat stiff sole and a wide heel to aid in standing the bike. A pliable yet strong material is the preferred choice for construction of the upper boot. Some boots even

offer load spreaders and energy absorbers on the outside and inside of each ankle. While leather is the traditional choice, other materials such as Kev-

lar, Lycra, and Cordura (or a combination of these) are also popular. Let's talk leathers for a minute. Leathers are sometimes referred to as clothing made especially for motorcycle riding. Leathers may include jackets, chaps, boots, and gloves. These items do indeed afford a special extra layer of protection to motorcycle riders. Some leathers even come with an armor like material sewn in at areas of potential impact such as elbows, shoulders, knees, hips, and back. If you have ever laid a bike down, you either wished you would have had leathers on or were glad you did have them on.

We'll touch on waterproofing next. Garments that waterproof or even heat the rider should be considered seriously. When inclement weather comes and you are caught in it, you should be prepared to protect yourself. You'll be glad you did!

Lastly, don't forget other safety accessories such as: reflective and high visibility apparel, LED headlights, exterior LED lighting, and daymaker headlights.

Ride safe my friends, Kevin Manning, Safety Officer Signing Out! 🏍️

