



# Huntington Beach Police Department

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Robert Handy, Chief of Police

## MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

**Release Date/Time:** July 9th, 2014 at 9:00 AM

**Subject:** Motorcycle Safety Enforcement

**Case Number:** N/A

### Details:

#### **Improving Motorcycle Safety Aim of Huntington Beach Police Department Operation**

*Careless motorists as well as riders get special scrutiny*

The Huntington Beach Police Department will be conducting a specialized Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in an effort to lower deaths and injuries. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle crashes occur. Officers will be looking for violations made by drivers and riders alike that can lead to motorcycle crashes. They will be cracking down on both those operating regular vehicles and motorcycles who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, speeding, making illegal turns, or any other dangerous violation.

Motorcycle fatalities saw a phenomenal drop of 37 percent from 2008 to 2010, but then rose 23 percent by 2012. Operations like this are aimed at curbing any more rises in motorcycle deaths and sending the numbers back downward.

Over the last year, the City of Huntington Beach has had 48 traffic collisions involving motorcycles, resulting in one fatality and 42 injuries to riders and/or passengers. Seven of the collisions were alcohol related and resulted in one death.

California collision data reveals that primary causes of motorcycle-involved crashes include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs by both riders and drivers alike. The Huntington Beach Police Department is also reminding all motorists to always be alert and watch out for motorcycles, especially when turning and changing lanes.

Riders can get training through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at [www.CA-msp.org](http://www.CA-msp.org) or 1-877 RIDE 411 or 1-877-743-3411.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The message to all drivers and motorcyclists is: share in the responsibility and do your part by safely "sharing the road."

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