



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: November 13th, 2013 **Time:** 9:30 AM **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

Type of Incident: Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation

Location: Huntington Beach

Date/Time of Occurrence: Saturday, November 16th and Sunday, November 17th, 2013

Details:

Reducing Motorcycle Injuries and Fatalities Is Aim of the Huntington Beach Police Department

Careless motorists as well as riders get special scrutiny

This weekend the Huntington Beach Police Department Traffic Unit will be patrolling the city with a directed focus on motorcycle safety. The intent of the officers is to educate motorcycle riders and passengers on safety helmet laws and deter motorcyclists who ride recklessly and commit moving violations. Officers will also be checking to ensure riders have the proper motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license.

According to the Motorcycle Industry Council, there is an estimated 10 million motorcycles owned and operated in the United States. Approximately 1,312,000 of those are located in California. With Huntington Beach being situated near the Pacific Ocean and within close proximity to many scenic mountain areas, many motorcycle riders will frequent or pass through our city. Over the last year, the City of Huntington Beach has had 55 traffic collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 49 injuries and three deaths to motorcycle riders and/or passengers. Nine out of the 55 collisions were alcohol related and resulted in two of the three deaths.

We ask that motorcycle riders practice defensive driving and are responsible with their riding habits. In addition, motorists should be aware of motorcycle riders as they have a smaller signature, a more difficult time stopping, and can come into view quickly. Motorcyclists don't have the same protections that cars do. Motorcycle riders and passengers should only wear helmets and safety equipment which meet the standards of the Department of Transportation and comply with the California Vehicle Code. Motorcycle owners should be aware that making modifications to their exhaust systems and lighting equipment can cause distractions to residents and motorists and may be more likely to cause collisions than to prevent them.

This enforcement operation is part of a \$270,264.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). It is a year-long program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways through special enforcement and public awareness efforts.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911!