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## May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

To call attention to the dangers and vulnerabilities motorcyclists face on the road, May is designated Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

The Sioux County Sheriff's Office wants to offer our tips to help drivers and motorcyclists alike stay safe on the roads this May and all year. Throughout Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, we encourage motorists to share the road with motorcyclists and be extra alert. Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable to crashes than other drivers.

According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, between 2013 and 2017, 240 motorcyclist fatalities occurred on Iowa roadways. Of those, 185 motorcyclists were not wearing a DOT approved motorcycle safety helmet.

Some safety tips:

- Motorcyclists must use turn signals for every turn or lane change.
- Drivers must allow greater following distance when behind a motorcycle.
- Motorcyclists should avoid riding in poor weather conditions.
- All motorists must use extra caution at intersections. Most injuries and deaths happen when a driver fails to see a motorcyclist and turns in front of the motorcycle.
- Motorcyclists should position their motorcycle to avoid a driver's blind spot.
- Drivers must never try to share a lane with a motorcycle.
- We suggest motorcyclists always wear a DOT approved motorcycle safety helmet.

Capt. Jamie Van Voorst said, "Always check your mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving traffic lanes. Through spring and summer, as motorcyclists increase, all motorists need to be aware of each other, follow the traffic laws and increase awareness to avoid unnecessary accidents that could have easily been avoided."

