



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: June 23, 2011 **Time:** 2:30 pm **Prepared by:** Sergeant Jon Haught

Type of Incident: Motorcycle Safety Enforcement

Location: City of Huntington Beach

Date/Time of Occurrence: June 24, 2011

Details:

Huntington Beach Police Department Working To Reduce Motorcycle Fatalities

The Huntington Beach Police Department will be conducting a specialized Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation on June 24, 2011, in our effort to continue lowering deaths and injuries. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle crashes occur. Officers will be looking for drivers and riders who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol and cracking down on traffic violations made by motorcyclists, as well as other vehicle drivers, that can lead to motorcycle collisions, injuries and fatalities.

California collision data reveals that primary causes of motorcycle-involved crashes include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs. 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. During 2009 and 2010, there were three motorcyclists killed and an additional 118 people injured in motorcycle collisions in Huntington Beach. Alcohol was involved in a significant number of these collisions.

Another major factor leading to motorcycle crashes is inexperience. Riders, young and old, are encouraged to be properly licensed and to seek training and safety information. "Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than others sharing the road," said California Office of Traffic Safety Director, Christopher J. Murphy. "Motorcyclists require special skills and abilities to reduce their risk of being involved in a crash."

Rider's can get training through the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at 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.

Additional safety tips for motorcycle riders and information on preventing motorcycle involved traffic collisions available at www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice.