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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY IMPORTANT FOR ALL WHO SHARE THE ROAD**

*~ May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – While motorcycle ridership continues to grow in Florida, so do the numbers of injuries and fatalities from motorcycle crashes. Today, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles brought together motorcycle riders and industry representatives, car enthusiasts, commercial truckers, law enforcement officers and motorcycle safety education experts for a motorcycle safety workshop to discuss how Florida can make the roads safer for motorcycle riders. The event rounds out a month of statewide activities in which the Department has participated to promote motorcycle safety.

“Everyone on our roadways is responsible for motorcycle safety,” said DHSMV Executive Director Electra Theodorides-Bustle. “Our message to drivers is to *Share the Road* and to keep a lookout for motorcycles. By being more aware of our surroundings, we can help save valuable lives.”

It is crucial that drivers always visually keep an eye out for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes and at intersections. Motorcycle riders need to do their part, too, by making themselves visible to other motorists. As part of our ongoing conspicuity program, the Department encourages riders to *Ride Proud. Dress Loud.*

“As the weather heats up, more and more motorcycle riders are hitting the streets,” said Florida Highway Patrol Director, Colonel John Czernis. “While FHP always encourages riders to wear appropriate protective gear, it also is important that they take a motorcycle rider safety course.”

DHSMV’s Florida Rider Training Program uses curriculum developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. FRTP course providers offer a 15-hour Basic Rider Course, which introduces riders to the fundamentals of safe, responsible motorcycle driving. The course includes the knowledge and skills necessary to ride safely on the streets and highways. Florida law requires riders to have a motorcycle endorsement on their driver license, and to get the endorsement a rider must complete the Basic Rider Course.

Motorcycle safety is not only important during the month of May, but also all year-round. Please remember to *Look Twice. Safe a Life.* For more information on the Florida Rider Training Program, visit <http://motorcycles.flhsmv.gov/>.

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