



News

Communications Unit

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Appeal to motorcyclists to ride safe

Following last weekend's tragedies when three motorcyclists were killed on roads in North Yorkshire, 95 Alive The York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership is appealing to bikers to ride safe and to drivers to Think Bike.

The warning comes in the run up to the Whit Bank Holiday this weekend which means a large increase in local and holiday traffic on the regions roads.

So far this year six motorcyclists have been killed. Last year sixteen motorcyclists died, over a third of the total number of people killed on our roads in 2009.

On average 80 per cent of motorcycle collisions in North Yorkshire are caused by rider error., with most casualties happening on A roads. Nearly 60 per cent of people killed are from outside the County with almost a quarter of the casualties coming from West Yorkshire.

Police, Fire and Rescue and North Yorkshire County Council work together, with many other agencies, as part of 95 Alive to reduce casualties on the roads.

North Yorkshire County Council's Assistant Director for Highways David Bowe, Chairman of 95 Alive, said:" We are doing all we can to avoid these tragedies. But motorcyclists have to take responsibility and share the road. Special rider development courses are organised through the summer, and Road Safety Officers attend many events to work with motorcyclists.

"We welcome responsible riders, but motorcyclists have to be aware that so many of our roads are lined by dry stone walls and trees and they are totally unforgiving, if a rider comes off. It may just be a case of slightly misjudging a bend or a manoeuvre, the risks of being killed or seriously injured are huge. It's not only a case of staying within the speed limits, riders have to take into account the conditions of the road, and other road users. And drivers of vehicles must realise they have to Think Bike, particularly at junctions."

Inspector Dave Brown Head of Strategic Roads Policing, warned: "We welcome bikers who come and enjoy the fantastic routes we have on offer in North Yorkshire, however people who come and use our roads irresponsibly are not welcome and will be dealt with accordingly. We will be utilising every resource at our disposal to clamp down on such behaviour. It simply will not be tolerated.



"Already this year, we have dealt with a number of fatalities which is devastating for the families' of those involved. I would urge anyone who is planning on going out and using the roads this weekend to be careful and think about the consequences of going too fast or attempting risky manoeuvres.

"We know its only the minority hardcore causing problems. If you're a law abiding rider tell us where we need to take action and we will respond.

"We want people to enjoy themselves but not if they are going to put the safety of themselves or other road users at risk."

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Chris Anderson said: "Road traffic collisions involving motorcyclists happen far too often on the roads of North Yorkshire, the consequences of which rob families of loved ones and create a lifetime of regrets for those left behind. To avoid such tragedies and stop our firefighters having to attend such scenes we are working hard with our 95 Alive road safety partnership colleagues to get across some simple messages which will undoubtedly save lives by reducing such incidents.

"The key issue is to get bikers to heed the advice given and ride in a manner that allows them time to react to road conditions, other road users and the hazards associated with the twists and turns of narrow country roads."

For more information contact Janet Gleeson, 95 Alive Campaign Coordinator on 01609 798304 or the Police Press Office on 0845 6060247