

# KEEPING OUR IMPAIRED FRIENDS ALIVE

*Adopted from "Riders Helping Riders" (2007), NHTSA DOT HS 810 907*

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# Presentation Goal

## *To help you...*

- Keep yourself and other riders alive to ride another day,
- Identify common rider cues and behaviors that may suggest impaired riding,
- Intervene in the drinking and riding behaviors, and
- Identify ways to separate drinking from the riding

# We Have a Strong Rider Community- Culture

## ***Motorcyclists are the minority on the roadway***

- Overrepresented in traffic-related fatalities (1 in 250)
  - account for 14 percent of all traffic-related fatalities,
  - representing only 3 percent of all registered motor vehicle, and
  - more riders becoming actively involved with the sport/activity

## ***Motorcyclists share a passion for riding***

## ***Riders tend to socialize with other riders***

## ***Motorcyclists help out other riders*** *(friends and strangers)*



## Why are Motorcyclists at Greater Risk?

### *Design of the Bike*

- Open-inline design
- Lack of enclosure- exposure
- Probability of being separated from the bike

### *Manner of Operation*

- Alcohol/drug impaired affects:
  - Decrease motor skills, vision, perception and reaction time
  - Increases risk taking and overdriving their skill level
  - Increased swerving and variable speeds

### *Lack of Preventative Laws*

- Helmet law





# Identify Rider Cues and Behaviors

## *So why should we be concerned with identifying rider cue and behaviors?*

- Riders are killed at lower BAC levels
- Riders need more skill to operate
- Motorcycles are less forgiving of mistakes
- Riders are more vulnerability and exposed to crash/injury risk
- Lower levels of impairment can be a danger even when not “obviously intoxicated”
  - Impaired cognitive and physical abilities lead to poor driving performance at lower BAC levels
  - You can’t leave it up to the drinking rider to decide if he or she can ride safely

# Rider Behavioral Cues to Look For...

## Excellent Predictors of Impairment (50% or > Probability of Intoxication)

- Drifting (Curve or Turn)
- Trouble with dismount
- Trouble with balance at a stop
  - Shifting weight from side to side
- Turning problems
  - Wobble at slow speeds
  - Late braking before a turn
  - Improper lean angle
  - Erratic movement/ sudden corrections
- Inattentive to surroundings
  - Doesn't react normally to surroundings (*i.e. stays parked at green light*)
  - Fails to periodically scan the area while in traffic
- Inappropriate or unusual behavior
- Weaving

# Rider Behavioral Cues to Look For... (cont)

## Good Predictors of Impairment (30% to 50% Probability of Intoxication)

- Erratic movements while traveling straight
- Operating without headlights
- Recklessness
- Following too close
- Running stop light or stop sign
- Evading police
- Driving on the wrong side of the roadway

# Steps to Deter Impaired Motorcycle Riding



## Encourage “at risk” riders to stay off the road

- You know when alcohol is going to be part of an event
- Encourage riders to “*Just park it*” and find alternative ways to and from events
  - Take a cab, uber or lyft
  - Call a friend and ride with them
  - If you do ride... have an accountability buddy to ensure that you never drink and ride



# Steps to Deter Impaired Motorcycle Riding (cont.)

## Exit Checkpoints

Checkpoints allow screeners to briefly stop and check on riders to determine they are safe to ride

Portable breath tests and passive alcohol sensors may be used

*If Identified as impaired:*

- Find alternative ways to get people home safely (Uber, Lyft, Taxis or Personally Transport)
- You are your brother and sisters keeper
- Mobilize the event community to ensure that safety of riders is built into the event before ever hosting it

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# Steps to Deter Impaired Motorcycle Riding (cont.)

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**Mobilize the event community to ensure that the safety of riders is built into the event before ever hosting it**

- Involve clubs and other groups in designing safety aspects of the event
- Get buy in for promoting safety
- Provide support for others who are promoting safety messages

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**THANK YOU**

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