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**For Immediate Release**  
**Slow Down – take a SECOND look around!**  
**Motorcyclist will be everywhere this weekend!**

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Lima, Ohio (June 19, 2017) This weekend thousands of motorcyclists will be arriving in Allen County for the National Motorcycle Races. Drivers of cars, trucks, and buses are reminded to look out for and share the road with motorcycle riders. Motorcycle riders are reminded to obey traffic laws, wear DOT-compliant helmets and other protective gear, and make themselves visible by wearing bright colors or maybe even using reflective tape. Increasing safe riding and cooperation between ALL road users, including motorcyclists, will help to reduce crashes. Let's ALL work together to make this weekend a crash free weekend. . .

In Allen County during 2015, there were 46 motorcycle crashes, resulting in 31 people injured and 4 fatalities; while in 2014, there were 35 crashes resulting in 24 injuries and 1 fatality. Over the last decade, 18 motorcyclists died in Allen County and nearly 400 were injured.

**Motorcycle, Ohio! and the Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coalition want to remind all of our friends sharing area roadways this weekend to be especially safe . . . Slow down - take a SECOND look around! Motorcyclists are everywhere on area roadways.**

The American Motorcyclists' Association and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation have provided safety rules - "Five Rules" for motorcyclists and drivers:

**Five Rules for Riders -**

- **Get Trained and Licensed** - enroll in Motorcycle, Ohio!
- **Wear Protective Gear** - including a helmet!
- **Ride Unimpaired** - never drink or use other drugs before getting on your motorcycle!
- **Ride Within Your Limits** – stay within your personal limits, never riding faster or farther than your abilities can handle!
- **Be Life Long Learners** – return regularly for a refresher riding course!

**Five Rules for Drivers -**

- **Look Out for Motorcycles** – use your mirrors & take a SECOND look around!
- **Don't be Distracted** – hang up and drive. Put down the food, the pet, the personal grooming gear, the CD, and the reading materials – Whatever is distracting you - save it for later!
- **Use Your Turn Signals** – signal your intentions. It's the law!
- **Give Motorcycles Some Room** – don't tailgate or drive too close or ride side-by-side a motorcycle!
- **Keep it in the Car** - Don't throw trash and cigarettes out the window, and securely lash down cargo that can fall out on the road and be a deadly hazard for motorcyclists.

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