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TIP OF THE WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

May is National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. The National Safety Council (NSC) reminds both riders and drivers to do their part to keep everyone safe.

In 2015, there were 4,976 motorcycle riders and passengers who died in crashes. That same year had nearly 88,000 nonfatal injuries according to statistics published by the NSC. Fatalities among motorcycle riders and passengers increased nearly 3% from 2006 to 2015.

Motorcycles make up 3% of all registered vehicles and only .7% of all vehicle miles traveled in the U.S. However, motorcyclists accounted for 14% of all traffic fatalities, 17% of all occupant fatalities and 4% of all occupant injuries in 2014," according to the NSC publication Injury Facts® 2017.

Nearly one-third of riders who died in a motorcycle crash in 2014 were alcohol-impaired. In 2015, speeding was a factor in more than 30% of motorcycle crashes. Also that year, 35% of all fatalities were riders 50 years of age and older. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, those older riders were ones who had ridden motorcycles in their 20's and decided to take it up again in their late 40's to 60's. Some of the challenges they faced in today's world were more traffic, more powerful bikes, more distracted drivers and diminished physical skills.

The most important equipment a biker can use? A HELMET! It is estimated that 1,772 lives were saved in 2015 by the use of helmets for both operators and passengers. An additional 740 lives could have been saved that year if they had all worn helmets.

In addition to wearing a helmet, we urge you to follow these safety rules:

- Drive Defensively
- Use headlights day and night
- Watch for hazards in the road such as potholes, oil slicks, gravel and debris
- Wear durable clothing that is bright and/or reflective as well as boots that cover the ankles
- **DON'T** drink and ride
- **DON'T** speed

For more information and tips, visit our website at www.lincolncountysheriff.net and Like us on Facebook at Lincoln County Sheriff's Office – Oregon.