



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## OCSD to conduct Motorcycle Safety Enforcement in Rancho Santa Margarita

**Rancho Santa Margarita, Ca. (May 1, 2024):** The Orange County Sheriff's Department will have extra deputies out on patrol Monday, May 3, in the city of Rancho Santa Margarita looking for violations made by drivers and motorcyclists that increase the risk of crashes.

With nearly 900,000 registered motorcycles in the state, many road users are going places without the same protections as drivers. Motorcycle riders are 28 times more likely to die in a crash than vehicle occupants.

To help protect you and your family, keep the following tips in mind while driving or riding:

### **Drivers:**

- Always check twice for motorcycles in your mirrors and blind spots
- Use your signal when changing lanes
- Never follow a motorcycle too closely. Always keep a safe distance
- When at an intersection, allow enough space before turning

### **Motorcyclist:**

- Always wear a DOT compliant helmet and protective gear like gloves and leather clothing
- Consider adding reflective tape to your clothing to make it easier for other drivers to see you
- Keep your lights on at all times, even during the day
- Don't assume drivers see you: signal well in advance before changing lanes and watch for turning vehicles
- Although lane splitting is legal, the practice is not encouraged at high speeds in free-flowing traffic, or between large vehicles like big rigs and motor homes

All motorcycle riders, regardless of skill level, are encouraged to enroll in the California Motorcyclist Safety Program. Information and training locations are available at <http://www.californiamotorcyclist.com> or by calling 1-877 RIDE-411 (1-877-743-3411). Funding for motorcycle safety enforcement operations are provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ###