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NEWS RELEASE

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Motorcycle Season Has Arrived

Madison, WI. April 5, 2013 – Motorcycle season is finally here – almost a whole month later than last year. The late arrival of spring weather, combined with a tough winter, means our roads are extremely hazardous for motorcycles right now due to a significant amount of remaining salt, sand and winter debris. The Dane County Sheriff's Office Motor Unit strongly encourages motorcyclists to ride with extreme care as we await a few significant rainfalls which will help wash off our roadways.

Motorcycle riders are encouraged to be committed in taking whatever steps possible to make them safe motorcyclists. This requires recognizing that it takes more skill to ride a motorcycle through traffic than it does a car or truck. Being safe requires the rider to recognize the early effect alcohol or drugs have when someone is on two wheels versus four, and how fatigue or distraction can have dire consequences on a motorcycle.

Here are some tips for motorcyclists to consider in their ongoing efforts to be safe on the road:

- Take a motorcycle safety course. If you haven't ridden a motorcycle for a long time, take a course even if you already have your license. If you have been riding for years, consider taking an advanced motorcycle safety course to enhance / refresh your safety skills.
- Make sure your motorcycle is in good condition. Check your tires (proper tire pressure is critical), lights, and overall mechanical condition. Mechanical failure on a motorcycle can cause drastically different problems than with a car or truck.
- Take steps to make yourself extra visible to the motorists around you. Wearing reflective or high visibility clothing, lighting, and riding with the assumption that car and truck drivers don't see you will go a long way to preventing a tragedy.
- Wear and use good motorcycle safety protective gear.
- Ride responsibly! Speeding, loss of control, and impaired riding are the leading causes of motorcycle crashes. As a matter of fact, the majority of motorcycle crashes do not involve another motor vehicle.
- Avoid drinking and riding. Motorcycling requires balance, judgment, coordination and sensitivity to surroundings, all of which can be negatively affected by even relatively small amounts of alcohol.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office Motor Unit rides as a part of their profession as well as in their time off. They are committed to training, because it is through ongoing training that they are able to ride safely in all kinds of conditions. Join them in being a safe motorcyclist.