



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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Look Twice for Motorcycles

Motorists are being asked to share the road as Southland starts to rev up to the Burt Munro Challenge in November and there is an influx of motorcyclists.

“When motorbike crashes happen, the motorbike rider nearly always comes off second best and crashes can result in serious injury if not death,” ACC injury prevention consultant Nic Miller said.

Motorcycles can be difficult to see as they are smaller than other vehicles and can blend into background traffic. Research shows that if drivers look into incoming traffic before entering or turning at an intersection, they may not see a motorcycle coming towards them. This can cause a serious crash.

In 2009 there was 40 motorcycle crashes reported in the Southland region. Two of these were fatal and 19 resulted in serious long-term injuries.

A New Zealand study found the single most common cause (41%) of all collisions was another vehicle pulling out in front of the motorbike rider. A further 32% of collision crashes occurred at intersections.

Drivers can reduce the chance of entering or turning at an intersection without seeing an oncoming motorcyclist.

“When drivers see a motorcycle in oncoming traffic, consider the motorcycle when making decisions. It can be difficult to tell how fast a motorcycle is travelling and motorcycles are able to accelerate more quickly than cars.

“Take more time when looking at oncoming traffic. Looking a second time instead of just briefly looking means you are more likely to see an approaching motorcycle. Drivers who are more aware of motorcycles are less likely to have a collision with one. Drivers who expect to see them are less likely to collide with them,” Ms Miller said.

ACC and Road Safety Southland will be promoting these messages to both motorists and motorcycles during the Burt Munro Challenge and throughout the year.

Road safety co-ordinator Jane Ballantyne says motorcycles can be difficult to see.

“Make sure as a motorist you look, look and look again. Let’s make Burt Munro an event to remember and get people there and back in one piece.”

For more information on motorcycle safety check out www.rideforever.co.nz

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