



May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

HOW CAN YOUR PUBLIC WORKS ROADWAY MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES SUPPORT MOTORCYCLISTS' SAFETY?

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As spring settles in, local and state agencies are gearing up for construction and maintenance operations. The month of May marks Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, so we at UNH T2 want to forward some tips on keeping motorcyclists safe in our work zones.

The first thing that comes to my mind is spring cleanup, let's sweep up all loose sand and debris from the roads. Sand and loose gravel on the pavement can be especially dangerous because it can cause you to lose control. Be mindful of low shoulders and depleted gravel, let's get those graders out and reclaim shoulders, and compact them the best you can.

Check and monitor the pavement surface as well, degradations in surface quality examples are longitudinal grooves from pavement milling, rumble strips, gravel roads and sections of rough or broken pavement. Motorcycles are lighter and only have two wheels in contact with the road, so these surface conditions have a greater effect on them. Also be mindful of pavement friction properties. Paint markings, glass beads after pavement markings, steel plates, again loose gravel, sand, loam etc. Put thought into liquids on the pavement surface as well; oil and other products can cause many issues for motorcyclists.

During construction and maintenance activities, be mindful of abrupt elevation changes, like uneven pavement lanes during paving. Use care when replacing underground utilities when it comes to trenches. Trenches should be paved as soon as possible; a temporary patch is much safer than a gravel patch. Gravel patches will need to be maintained more frequently costing you time and materials.

The above mentioned are issues that cannot be avoided but we as DPW employees can help in resolving them by being proactive.

DOWNLOAD THE GUIDELINES ON MOTORCYCLE & BICYCLE SAFETY IN WORK ZONES

Practices and strategies to help mitigate safety concerns for motorcyclists and bicyclists in work zones. Developed by the Roadway Safety Consortium.

<https://bit.ly/motorcyclesafetyinworkzones>