

## **Cold Weather Riding Tips**

Winter has definitely arrived in North Georgia! We all know that Georgia weather can run the spectrum, especially this time of year. Here are a few tips to keep you safe:

### **Know your skill level**

Riding a motorcycle is a physical and mental skill, and can diminish if you haven't ridden in a while. Take some time to get reacquainted with your bike if it's been some time since your last ride.

### **Hazard Awareness**

When riding, you should always maintain a constant state of awareness. It's even more important when riding this time of year. It gets dark very early, and most drivers are not expecting to see a motorcycle on the road in February. If you try to identify every hazard you see when riding, there will not be any surprises. When identifying potential hazards, there are no wrong answers. Call out everything: driveway, intersection, children, dogs, parked cars, oncoming line of cars, blind curve, deer, gravel, construction, potholes, etc. This exercise will both help you prepare and force you to scan beyond your normal boundaries.

### **Wet Weather**

If you ride your motorcycle, you are going to get wet. Riding in the rain can be done safely if you follow a few simple rules. Keep rain gear with you, if you have room. Keep a pair of clear glasses or wear a helmet shield of some type. Keeping the rain out of your eyes is imperative. Adjust your riding speed for the conditions. Keep in mind, when it rains for the first time after an extended dry period, there will be excessive amounts of oil on the road, making conditions extremely slick. Watch for standing water.

### **Frost/Ice**

This time of year the weather in Georgia can fluctuate 20 or more degrees day-to-day. Sometimes it seems like hour-to-hour, even! Midday temperatures could be comfortable, while overnight temperatures may be below freezing. It is necessary to be aware of frost and black ice on the roadway in the early morning during this time of year. Be sure to pay particular attention for frost/ice on bridges and overpasses, as well as shady areas where the morning sun might not have melted the frost yet.

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