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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Share the road with motorcycles

PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE JOINS GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE AND NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION TO PREVENT MOTORCYCLE CRASHES

Putnam County, TN – The Putnam County Sheriff's Office reminds motorists and motorcyclists alike during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month to "share the road" in order to help prevent motorcycle crashes, deaths and injuries on Putnam County roads.

"It's up to all motorists and motorcyclists to make our roads safer," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "All road users need to share the responsibility of keeping the roadways safe. By following road signs, obeying speed limits, and always staying focused on the road, deaths could be prevented."

According to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, there were 2,710 known crashes involving a motorcycle in 2014 that resulted in 121 deaths. Over the last decade, motorcycle fatalities have increased nearly twenty-five percent statewide.

Drivers can utilize the following tips to help prevent a fatal crash with a motorcycle:

- Though a motorcycle is a small vehicle, its operator still has all the rights of the road as any other motorist. Allow the motorcycle the full width of a lane at all times.
- Always signal when changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- If you see a motorcycle with a signal on, be careful: motorcycle signals are often non-canceling and could have been forgotten. Always ensure that the motorcycle is turning before proceeding.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles before changing lanes or merging with traffic, especially at intersections.
- Always allow more follow distance – three to four seconds – when behind a motorcycle. This gives them more time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.
- Never drive distracted or impaired.

"As the weather gets warmer, more and more motorcyclists will be on the road," said Governor's Highway Safety Office Director Kendell Poole. "Motorcyclists take extra precaution with protective gear and being aware of their surroundings. We are asking all other drivers to do their part and take the extra time to look twice."

For more information on motorcycle safety, visit www.tntrafficsafety.org/motorcycle.

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