



# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

WITH MERV SADDEN

## NIGHT RIDING

My rule is to avoid riding at night if at all possible. Sometimes, however, it cannot be avoided and as such, we need to be mindful of the additional risks it presents. Here are a few tips I find helpful:

**Visibility:** Darkness can actually improve how visible we are to other motorists if we are properly illuminated. To enhance our presence, we should wear Hi-Vis reflective gear and add reflective strips to our bikes. Replacing the bike's stock head lamp with a better after-market product could also be explored.

**Road Debris:** Coming upon debris on the road while riding is a hazard at any time. This risk is compounded at night. To reduce this risk, we should only drive as fast as our headlights can illuminate the road in front of us. Our ability to avoid a collision is improved with the more time we have to react.

**Animals:** Encountering an animal at night can be devastating. They are unpredictable and often most active at night. We can reduce our chances of hitting one by paying attention to road signs warning of their presence, reducing our speed, and by constantly scanning the road and ditches ahead for signs of their presence. Even a fraction of a second of advance notice can make a difference.