



# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

WITH MERV SADDEN

## EARLY SEASON RIDING

After the winter break it can take awhile to regain our comfort and confidence while riding. This is particularly true for new riders. With this in mind, I thought I would pass on a few safety tips I have been taught.

For starters, make sure your motorcycle has been serviced by a licensed mechanic to ensure it is mechanically safe. Plan your first rides at times and locations when traffic is low. Practice emergency braking and obstacle avoidance in an empty parking lot. Be mindful of the temperature; riding in cold or wet weather can slow our reflexes and reduce our ability to react quickly to traffic demands.

There are many other steps we can take to reduce the risk of being involved in an accident. If you have not done so previously, enroll in a professional motorcycle training course. Review and practice the tips and exercises set out in the Learn To Ride Smart and Tuning Up For Riders publications available from ICBC. Plan rides with more experienced riders and discuss with them the safety tips they employ while riding.

A lifelong commitment to training and practice sharpens our skills and is our best measure to ensure a safe riding season.