## RELEASE FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 19, 2013

## MOTORCYCLE DRIVERS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS

Dodge County Highway Safety Coordinator Robert Sell reminds motorists that we can expect to see an increase in motorcycle traffic at the end of August. The 110<sup>th</sup> annniversary of Harley Davidson will greatly increase motorcycle traffic. It's estimated over 10,000 cycles will travel to Milwaukee for the events over the Labor Day weekend, August 29, 2013 thru September 1, 2013.

Most motorcycle crashes occur when another driver turns in front of them. Look for cycles before turning. Then look again.

Use turn signals to warn cyclists before turning. Use extra caution when entering a major thoroughfare from a side street, driveway or parking lot. When changing lanes, make a visual check for motorcycles, in addition to looking in your rear view mirror. The motorcycles size allows it to easily tuck into your blind spots and become invisible.

Size does not dictate who has the right to go first. When stopped at intersections, double-check traffic before proceeding. Take a second look specifically for motorcycles before pulling out.

Looking at Wisconsin DOT records, one week prior to and one week after the four day 100<sup>th</sup> Harley Davidson anniversary event in 2003, Wisconsin recorded over 400 motorcycle crash injuries and 15 motorcycle fatalities.

When an accident does occur, motorcycle riders rarely escape injury. To date Wisconsin has recorded 50 motorcycle fatalities. Dodge County had 4 motorcycle fatalities in 2012.