

About the Smart Rider Commitments

In an effort to support riders in making good choices (choices that will help them prevent and survive crashes), the Idaho **STAR** Program has developed these “Smart Rider Commitments.” These are statements for riders to consider regarding choices they will make – commitments they will (or will not) make to themselves about riding.

The Smart Rider Commitments are based on three principles:

1. We are free to choose, but we cannot escape the necessity of choice (e.g. for whatever protective gear a rider is wearing, that rider made a choice to wear or not wear it).
2. We cannot wish facts out of existence. (Facts such as: riders are much more vulnerable to injury than car drivers; riding demands more attention, skill, and energy than driving a car; in a battle between asphalt and skin, the skin loses; etc.)
3. In ‘the moment of truth’ (a car pulls out suddenly, there is gravel in the middle of a turn; a corner gets tighter; etc.) it is too late to go back and make different choices (about riding gear, speed, alcohol, following distance, skills practice, etc.).

We encourage all riders to consider these commitments. We hope you make the choices (and commitments) that are right for you, as well as for your family and loved ones.

Idaho **STAR** Motorcycle Safety Program

idahostar.org

1-888-280-STAR (7827)

SMART RIDER COMMITMENTS



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- I acknowledge that part of being a responsible rider is knowing and following the 'rules of the road.' I accept this fact and commit to learning and complying with state laws, rules, regulations and equipment requirements.
- I acknowledge that riding a motorcycle in a complex traffic and roadway environment is an activity involving risk and danger. I accept this fact and commit to managing those risks.
- I acknowledge that when riding a motorcycle, the only thing between me and the elements (hot, cold, rain, hail, bugs, the asphalt, other vehicles, etc.) is the gear I am wearing. I accept this fact and commit to getting and wearing riding gear that is right for me and my family.
- I acknowledge that a motorcycle requires more frequent inspection and maintenance than a car. I accept this fact and commit to learning how and when to perform a pre-ride check on my motorcycle.
- I acknowledge that an expert rider is one who uses expert judgment to avoid having to use expert skills. I accept this fact and commit to becoming an expert rider by practicing SIPDE (Scan, Identify, Predict, Decide, Execute) skills, keeping my eyes up and scanning 20 seconds ahead.
- I acknowledge that motorcyclists running wide in turns is the most common fatal crash situation. I accept this fact and commit to practicing good cornering skills, and in particular LOOKING through the turn and PRESSING forward on the handgrip to cause the bike to lean/turn.
- I acknowledge that braking errors are very common in crash situations. I accept this fact and commit to regularly practicing quick stops, with an emphasis on smooth increasing pressure on the front brake and a light to lighter application of the rear brake.

- I acknowledge that many fatal motorcycle crashes involve riders who had been drinking. I accept this fact and commit to separate the use of alcohol (and other drugs) from riding a motorcycle. I commit to riding sober.
- I acknowledge that an impaired rider in the group puts me at risk. I accept this fact and commit to avoiding riding with others who are impaired.
- I acknowledge that there are a wide variety of factors that can impair my ability to ride safely. I accept this fact and commit to minimizing factors that can negatively affect my riding ability and performance.
- I acknowledge that when I carry a passenger, I am responsible for their safety and comfort. I accept this fact and commit to waiting to carry passengers until I have well developed skills and significant experience as a solo rider.
- I acknowledge that group riding demands more skill and attention than riding solo. I accept this fact and commit to waiting to ride with a group until I have well developed skills and significant experience riding by myself or with just one other (and more experienced) rider.
- I acknowledge that touring and long-distance riding demand physical endurance, mental stamina and preparation. I accept this fact and commit to building up slowly to longer distances and to being prepared for the challenges of long-distance riding.

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____