



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Cathy Collins-Taylor, Director
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Ted Strickland, Governor

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ODPS GIVES "SAVED BY THE HELMET" AWARD TO OSHP TROOPER *Use of Helmet Prevented Serious Injury or Death in Off-Duty Motorcycle Crash*

(COLUMBUS) – Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Cathy Collins-Taylor and Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Interim Superintendent Captain Kevin Teaford today presented OSHP Trooper Scott Wolford with the "Saved By the Helmet" Award.

Trooper Wolford received the award for taking proper safety precautions and wearing a helmet, which prevented serious injury and potentially saved his life when he was in a motorcycle crash this past summer.



The "Saved By The Helmet" award is given to increase public awareness about the life-saving value of motorcycle helmets and other safety gear. Motorcycle fatalities have increased 35 percent over the last three years on Ohio's roads. To reverse that trend, ODPS is leading the *Ride SMART* campaign. Through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO), the Ohio State Highway Patrol and other safety partners, the campaign works to address all aspects of motorcycle safety including: Ride **S**ober. Ride **M**otorcycle Endorsed. Ride **A**lert.

Use the **R**ight Gear. Ride **T**rained. *Ride SMART*. Preliminary statistics for 2009 show that motorcycle fatalities are down by approximately 55 deaths as compared to this time last year.

Anyone who has been in a motorcycle crash can be considered for the award within one year of the crash. The crash must be verifiable through state records. Candidates can be nominated for the award either by the investigating law enforcement officer or anyone with knowledge of the crash. Nomination forms are sent to OTSO's Motorcycle Ohio Office. For more information on this and other motorcycle programs log on to: <http://www.motorcycle.ohio.gov/default.html>.

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