



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Traffic Safety Office

Ohio Traffic Safety Office • Tina O'Grady, Administrator  
[www.ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov](http://www.ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov)



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### OHIO TO HOST NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SAFETY CONFERENCE

*Conference will bring together more than 300 motorcycle safety partners from across the country*

**(COLUMBUS)** – The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Traffic Safety (OTSO) is proud to host the 2010 National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) Conference, which kicks off today and runs through Sunday.

The Conference will bring together more than 300 motorcycle safety professionals, program managers and instructors from across the country – 60 from Ohio. Conference workshops will include educational and professional updates as well as a group Motorcycle Awareness Ride.

"This is a nationwide cross-section of motorcycle safety instructors and program managers discussing ideas, challenges and solutions for reducing motorcycle crashes, injuries and fatalities in Ohio and the United States," said National Association of SMSA Chair Carol Thurn.

Motorcycle Ohio, a section of OTSO, works closely with the National Association of SMSA to address issues that can impact motorcycle safety including education, training and motorist awareness. This partnership is particularly critical at a time when Ohio is experiencing an increase in motorcycle fatalities. So far this year, Ohio has witnessed 112 motorcycle fatalities, up from 104 at this time last year – an eight percent increase.

The National Association of SMSA is dedicated to serving the needs and interests of state motorcycle safety administrators and programs by advocating motorcycle safety and fostering and promoting the exchange of ideas and resources. The Association coordinates the safety programs at the state level joined by other professional organizations, corporations, instructors, and individuals in intense efforts to make motorcycle riding a safer and more enjoyable experience. Its network and safety messages reach more than 150 chief instructors/ridercoach trainers, 5,500 instructors/ridercoaches and 200,000 students annually.

The Conference will be held Aug. 20-22 at the Doubletree Hotel, 175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus 43235. **For media availability at the conference, please contact Pat Hahn, SMSA Communications Chair, at (651) 285-6276.**

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*OTSO coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and local law enforcement and safety partners around the state to combat impaired and unsafe driving. OTSO also promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety in addition to administering the Driver Training program for the state and Traffic Statistics. For more information about OTSO, please visit: <http://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/>.*