

# Safety Riding Tip

## by Jennifer Knourek

### Biker Information Guide



## Fall and Winter Riding

For those of you that want to extend your riding season into the late fall and winter weather the best advice is BE PREPARED!

**Plan your ride** - Where are you going? What is the distance between stops? Who's going with you? What are the expected weather conditions? Who are you meeting with and when? Plan your ride and ride your plan.

**Cold conditions** – Layer your clothing. Layers can be added and removed as necessary. A heated vest or jacket is also another great investment but it draws a bit of energy from your bike (~3A) so you have to have a generator/stator that can handle the extra load - most motorcycles do have the capacity but check your owner's manual for the output of your generator.

**Wet conditions** - Waterproof gear is great. Carry a set of raingear on the bike that you can put on in a hurry over your riding gear. For cold, wet hands you can use a set of latex gloves over your leather riding gloves to keep the water from soaking your gloves and chilling your hands. Another good idea is to carry a spare set of gloves. Instant heat packs are a good idea to carry with you when you need a quick source of heat for your hands or feet.

**Cold, wet, icy roads** - Slow down and give yourself even more stopping distance between your bike and the vehicle in front of you. This will make your stops more gradual requiring less demand on the available traction on your tires. Sudden demand for traction can compromise your stability and balance.

Keep your bike in good operating condition. Check your tire pressures, oil levels, lights, controls, brakes, throttle, steering, etc. Also, really important is to check your tires for any cracks and excessive wear.

Breaking up your ride into smaller segments will keep your body from shutting down its extremities due to the cold. If you get too cold, or wet pull over and eat something warm or have a coffee or hot chocolate and warm up your hands.

These are just a few hints to stay safe this fall and winter. Remember. It's all about the ride so be prepared, be safe and we'll see you on The road.