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ALR DOC November 2024 Safety Article

It looks like we are beginning to see our rainy season and the snow season starts. That means that there will be days when we will be running into some mixed weather days along with just good old fashion rainy days.

Are you ready?

Well let’s look at a few things that change when we get into this time of year.

1. Days get much shorter. So, ask yourself how is my night vision?
2. Do I have the proper riding gear such as rain suits, highly reflective clothing such as a vest, jacket or helmet?
3. What condition are my tires in? Is there enough tread to properly channel the water away from them? Hydroplaning is no fun.
4. I am adjusting for longer breaking distances since we do not want to create a skid.
5. Are all the lights and turning indicators on the bike working?

If you are out and get caught in the rain you will want to adjust your lane position to the left or right side of the lane. If you notice when it rains, there is a black track in the middle of the lane. That is all the grease and oil that has been sitting there. The most dangerous time when it rains if the first 30 minutes. That’s when the oil slick is worse.

The most important thing is checking the weather before going out on an event or even a joy ride.

Some of these things we do all year round, some we do when the weather changes. For example, here is what I do every time I ride no matter what season it is.

1. Watch the morning news (weather only)
2. Check my tires condition and pressure
3. Check my lights and turn signals
4. Check my hand controls
5. Check my saddle bags for items such as tools, first aid kit, gloves (I carry three different weights of gloves) zip ties tire repair kit and tire pump also my rain gear during the winter months.
6. I carry my ALR Yellow Vest as well as an Orange Vest
7. Make sure everything is working on the bike
8. Make sure my phone and headset are fully charged. Carry a charger with you just in case.
9. I check my oil when I return since the motor is at operating temperature

As I mentioned, we do some of these things all year round, but at this time of year we need to be a little more prepared and pay more attention to what’s going on around us.

RIDE SAFE ALL.

Andrew Trapani

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