

# Operation Zenith

## Newsletter - April 2014



Hi,

It's hard to believe we're in spring 2014 already and there has been no real winter to speak of, which is good news for some of the 'ride all year' motorcyclists amongst us.

For those who have had their bikes in slumber in the garage all winter, remember to check them over before heading out on the roads.

Pay particular attention to the condition of the tyres, brakes and chain. Remember, fuel left in the tank all winter can degrade and end up fouling plugs etc. If you're not confident in checking the condition of your machine before riding it, get it checked over by a bike mechanic for peace of mind.

Once you get your bike back on the road remember to be extra cautious and keep your speed low. Your skill level won't be the same as it was at the end of the biking season last year so give yourself plenty of time to regain your confidence and ability.

While we saw a **reduction in motorcycle collisions in 2013** compared to before the launch of Operation Zenith in 2010, we are of course seeking to reduce these collisions further. The intention of Zenith is to promote safer motorcycling in order to cut the number of collisions within the Grampian area.

Part of the campaign involves analysing the statistics and on doing so it highlighted the following:

- 1) An increase in the number of collisions in Aberdeen city compared to previous years.
- 2) The Deeside area saw the largest number of collisions for Aberdeenshire and Moray.

- 3) More powerful motorbikes account for the greatest proportion of casualties and these tend to be associated with older riders.

Casualty numbers also tend to **peak at certain times** depending on the day of the week. Weekdays tend to see two peaks, one between 6am and 8am and another between 3pm and 8pm, both of which are of course peak travel times.

The peak on a weekend is generally around lunchtime/ late afternoon. The greatest proportion of total collisions tend to occur on a Sunday.

The collision causes continue to be the same as previous years and It's still apparent the vast majority of motorcyclists do not take **further training** once they have passed their test. Bear in mind the test is only the minimum standard required to use the roads, there is still lots to learn in order to use the roads safely. Why not become an advanced motorcyclist? This way you'll be a safer rider and get more enjoyment from using your new skills and ability. Another advantage is that most insurance companies assess you as less of a risk having successfully completed an advanced training course and can offer more discount.

Further information can be found on -

[www.aroundthecorner.org.uk](http://www.aroundthecorner.org.uk)  
[www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk)  
[www.iam.org.uk](http://www.iam.org.uk)  
[www.direct.gov.uk/ers](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ers)





This year's **launch** was held on Friday 14th March at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Mountholly Way, Aberdeen.

We were also at 'Scotland's Best Outdoors' show at the AECC on Saturday 29 March 2014. This event incorporated the Wheels event that was held there last year. Hopefully this will be a yearly event and continue to grow in popularity.

We are again holding a **motorcycling safety evening** at Grampian Transport Museum, Alford on Thursday 5th June. We will have information on advanced riding and on road assessments available as well as competitions and prizes for those attending. More information will be released nearer the time, but put

this date into your diary now.

The **Grampian Motorcycle Convention** will be held on Sunday 7th September 2014 at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford. We'll be there to provide information on safer motorcycling so come along and have a chat to us.

You can also post any questions or queries you have on our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/OperationZenith](http://www.facebook.com/OperationZenith)

Have a great summer, ride safely and don't become a statistic.

Operation Zenith.

