



Miami Valley Hospital  
 Good Samaritan Hospital  
 Atrium Medical Center  
 Upper Valley Medical Center  
 Premier Health Partners

# Trauma Alert

Keeping you informed from your partners in trauma care

## Coordinator's Corner

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### **Education Dates**

#### **ACLS PROVIDER—MVH 2010**

- January 14-15
- February 11-12
- March 11-12
- April 28-29
- May 25-26
- June 10-11
- September 8-9
- October 6-7
- November 3-4

#### **RECERT ACLS—MVH 2010** **0800-1200 or 1230-1600**

- February 10
- March 10
- April 27
- May 24
- June 9
- July 14
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2

**August 2010**

## **WHAT A RIDE!**

As the days of summer quickly pass by, each day brings news of motorcycle accidents involving injuries and fatalities. As an avid rider and motorcycle enthusiast, news of each motorcycle accident reminds me of the dangers involved while driving on the open roads. My passion for riding motorcycles is shared alike by many throughout the region and nation, but so is our concern for safety.

A recent report by the Ohio Department of Public Safety shows preliminary data including motorcycle fatalities have increased by 7% in 2010 when compared to the same time frame from 2009 and have more than doubled in the past decade. It is estimated that 52% of all motorcycle accidents result in traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Additional statistics from the State of Ohio include:

- Montgomery, Butler and Hamilton Counties are on the top ten lists for motorcycle accidents within Ohio between 2004 and 2008.
- 62% of motorcycle accidents are frontal collisions while 38% involved alcohol.
- 70% of fatalities involved patients without a helmet and the risk of death was reduced by 37% if the motorcyclist was wearing an approved helmet.
- Population mostly affected is between the ages of 16-55.

Factors contributing to the increasing number of motorcycle accidents include additional vehicles/drivers on the road as well as the rising cost of gasoline. Many people have converted to driving motorcycles rather than cars, trucks, or SUV's in an effort to save money during their financial hardship.

**RECERT ACLS-MVH 2010  
0800-1200 only**

January 13  
August 11  
December 2

**ACLS AT UVMC**

May 21  
May 28

**ACLS RECERT AT UVMC**

April 16  
October 8

**PALS AT UVMC**

April 23 and 30  
September 10 and 17

**ITLS PROVIDER AT MVH**

May 1-2  
October 2-3  
December 4-5

**RECERT held on Day 2 of Provider  
Course**

**PALS PROVIDER AT MVH**

March 3-4  
June 16-17  
September 29-30  
December 7-8

**RECERT PALS AT MVH**

March 2  
June 15  
September 28  
December 6

**ACLS AT AMC**

January 28 and 29  
March 19 and 22  
May 21 and 24  
July 15 and 16  
September 16 and 17  
November 18 and 19

**PALS AT AMC**

February 18 and 19  
April 20 and 21  
August 5 and 6  
December 15 and 17

As first responders, we must be prepared to treat multiple injuries when responding to a motor vehicle collision involving motorcycles. Injuries can include minor road rash resulting in soft tissue damage, facial disfigurement or broken joints typically in the shoulders, pelvis and upper and lower extremities. Regardless of how fast or slow the impact was, spinal precautions should be implemented immediately with the suspicion of severe spinal cord compromise. By recognizing life threatening injuries during a rapid trauma assessment and relying on the basic fundamentals of Airway, Breathing and Circulation (ABC's), your patient will have a greater opportunity for survival. A rapid trauma assessment should include the patients GCS score along with a DCAP-BTLS assessment to help prioritize the severity of the injuries.

With any significant trauma event, observing the "Golden Hour" will help reduce patient mortality. One hour from the time of the accident to having the patient in surgery is ideal but may be unrealistic if certain circumstances arise. As an EMS provider, we must be diligent and efficient to keep our on scene time to less than 10 minutes whenever possible. Keep in mind that sometimes the obvious injury is not necessarily life threatening but the undetected injuries could be. Increased times spent in the field with severe trauma patients can double the chance of them dying making rapid transport to an appropriate facility critical.

A couple new safety innovations being slowly introduced to the industry include motorcycle airbags and jackets with airbag systems sewn in them. Wearing proper attire and helmets have repeatedly shown their benefits for victims involved in a motorcycle accident. Motorcycle training courses have also helped reduce injuries by teaching drivers different techniques of operations and handling.

In summary, motorcycle accidents will continue to happen and we will be called to help. It is our responsibility to be able to recognize and differentiate between life threatening and non-life threatening injuries. Being complete and thorough with your assessment will help provide a better outcome for each patient.

Tony Alexander NREMT-P, EMSI  
EMS Manager, Upper Valley Medical Center