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Minn. Man Launches New Braking System in Effort to Protect Motorcyclists

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A Minnesota man has launched a first-of-its-kind system for motorcycle riders that he says will make the roads safer for all drivers.

Motorcycle season is back, and with that comes the annual reminders.

"We've got a lot more ridership out there," said Bill Shaffer, the motorcycle safety coordinator with DPS.

For John J. Henry, a motorcyclist for nearly 30 years, close calls are enough for him to create something to protect others.

"Riding is a passion and I've always thought safety first and fun second," Henry said.

Henry is the creator of the Heads Up Braking System. Along with traditional brakes, you also have a light on your helmet. The Kelatronic technology will sense deceleration, allowing you to warn other drivers when you're slowing down, without even applying the brakes.

"It's important that they see the motorcycle when it's slowing down," Henry said.

The brighter the day, the brighter the light on the back of the helmet. Henry says the technology allows the LED to adjust to driving both at night and during the day.

"I didn't want the light to be so bright at night that it would distract other drivers," Henry said.

"Other drivers failing to yield to motorcycle crashes is still one of the biggest contributing factors out there," said Bill Shaffer, the motorcycle safety coordinator with Minnesota's Department of Public Safety.

Even the DPS applauds this effort. There were 61 motorcycle deaths in Minnesota last year, and nine killed in eight crashes so far this year, as of June 1.

"Riders doing what they can to make themselves be easier seen by other drivers is huge," Shaffer said.

After years of perfecting the product, Henry has two patents on this technology, a simple concept that could save lives.

"Believe me, it takes a lot of tweaking," Henry said. "I'm more looking if it makes a difference, that's what's important."

Motorcycle helmets aren't required in the state of Minnesota.

Henry says the technology is already available for snowmobiles and ATV helmets. He hopes to use them for bicycle helmets in the future.

[You can find more information here.](#)

