

**Crossroads HOG  
Safety Thought  
August 2007**

**THE LAST 5 MILES**

**Here is a statistic you've seen and heard before. "Most accidents happen within 5 miles of home."**

**Well, that is born out by statistics. I don't have anything more recent than 2001 but during that year, studies show that a whopping 52% of motorcycle crashes (reported) happened within 5 miles of home.**

**There's more - 77% happened within 15 miles of home.**

**And more - nearly 25% happened within ½ mile of home !**

**Those of you who want to argue with the use of statistics are free to do so. Yes, you can say that you and your bike are most frequently within that radius of home as you must be to go anywhere.**

**But what I want to remind you of is not the validity of the statistic but, rather, the existence of that danger zone. I hope only to raise your awareness and, possibly, save you a discomfort.**

**Being aware of the statistic is paramount to doing something positive about it. There are two ways, that I can think of for you to minimize your chance of becoming a part of the data.**

**One – you can move frequently.**

**Two – you can adjust your alert level. We are all likely to become somewhat complacent as we traverse territory with which we are very familiar. We need only to crank up our awareness; remind ourselves that everything that can go wrong anywhere else can go wrong here as well.**

**When you leave your driveway, remind yourself of that fact and it just may make the trip more pleasant.**

**There you go. That's my contribution to your safe riding for this month.**

**Now, go ride, be safe, have fun.**

**Mike – the safety guy.**