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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOTORCYCLE THEFTS IN NEW YORK RISE; OWNERS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS, SAYS NYIA

ALBANY, N.Y., April 6, 2009—With the return of warmer weather, many motorcycle owners in New York State are taking to the road again. But they should take precautions as motorcycle thefts are on the rise, the New York Insurance Association (NYIA) advised.

NYIA cited a new report from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), which found that motorcycle thefts in New York State increased from 1,781 in 2007 to 1,851 in 2008. The four percent increase in motorcycle thefts in New York contrasts with a nationwide decline of 2.3 percent.

With a recovery rate of 23 percent, motorcycle owners in New York need to take every precaution in protecting their investments.

To prevent theft, NYIA and NICB recommend bikers use common sense when parking their motorcycle. Remove keys and park in well-lit areas. Motorcycles should be locked even when in storage. Many motorcycle manufacturers offer alarm systems similar to those for automobiles.

In addition, when purchasing a motorcycle make sure it is not stolen:

- Be wary of used cycles titled or registered as an "assembled vehicle." If possible, have your insurer inspect the cycle prior to purchasing it.
- Verify that a previously-driven cycle titled and registered as a popular brand name is not an assembled clone made from aftermarket components.
- Look closely at used cycles for a title history that reveals numerous manufacturers' statements of origin for major component parts.
- Watch for cycles alleged to be "all custom." They could be assembled from stolen or altered aftermarket parts, especially chrome components.
- Be wary of cycles or major component parts that were allegedly acquired at a "swap meet."
- Obtain an expert appraisal and/or insurance policy pre-inspection before purchasing and insuring a used cycle.

The New York Insurance Association (NYIA®) is a state trade association that has represented the property and casualty insurance industry for over 125 years. For more information on NYIA, visit www.nyia.org.