



Motorcycle Safety & Laws

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1. Safety

- What percentage of Riders involved in fatal Motorcycle crashes are over 40 years old?
- A. 25%
- B. 10%
- C. 33%
- D. 47%

2. Safety

- What percentage of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes did not have a valid motorcycle endorsement on their license?
- A. 40%
- B. 25%
- C. 63%

3. Motorcycle Safety Course

- The motorcycle safety course used as a substitute for a Driver's Safety Course is not the same as the motorcycle safety course used as a substitute for a Riding Skills Test when obtaining a license?
- A. True
- B. False

4. Motorcycle Safety Course

- The Motorcycle Safety Course used for D.S.C and a substitute for the Riding Skills Test is not the same as the Motorcycle Safety Course that can be used in exempting a motorcycle rider from wearing protective headgear?
- A. True
- B. False

5. Helmets – Required or Not?

- It is against the law for someone over 21 y.o.a. to ride a motorcycle on a public street in Texas without wearing a helmet?
- A. True
- B. False

Who are licensed motorcycle riders?

- You and Me –Anyone over 15!
- Motorcycle sales have increased for the last 9 years.
- From 1997 to 2006 motorcycle registrations in the United States have increased by 63%.



Why are more people Riding?

- Recreation
- Cost Saving
- Sport - Thrill

Motorcycle Safety Issues and Facts

- Motorcycle crash fatalities have risen every year since 2000.
- Fatalities in Texas this year have tripled over last year.
- 104,000 motorcycle crashes in the U.S. in 2006.
- A cyclist is 35 times more likely to die in a crash and 8 times more likely to be injured in a crash than passenger car occupants.

1. Safety

- What percentage of Riders involved in fatal Motorcycle crashes are over 40 years old?
- A. 25%
- B. 10%
- C. 33%
- D. 47%

Safety – Cont'd

- 47% of motorcycle riders killed in crashes are over 40 years of age.
- 27% of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes were legally intoxicated, compared to 23% of fatal passenger car crashes.

2. Safety

- What percentage of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes did not have a valid motorcycle endorsement on their license?
 - A. 40%
 - B. 25%
 - C. 63%

Safety – Cont'd

- 25% of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes did not have a valid motorcycle license.
- Brain Injuries, Head Trauma were the leading cause of death in motorcycle crashes.

Safety – Cont'd

- In 2006, 37 percent of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were speeding.
- In 2006 motorcycle helmets saved 1,658 lives. Helmets are believed to be 37 % effective in preventing fatal injuries.
- 90% of motorcycle operators killed are male.

What IS a Motorcycle?

- **It is** a motor vehicle designed to propel itself with no more than three wheels in contact with the ground.
- **It is** equipped with a rider's saddle.
- **It is** a motor driven cycle. (Less than 250cc's)
- **It is** a moped. (Transp. Code §541.201).

Motorcycle



What is NOT a Motorcycle!

- **It is not** an electric bicycle. (Transp. Code § 541.201)
- **It is not** a pocket bike, mini-motor bike or motorized mobility device or neighborhood electric vehicle.

Not a Motorcycle



License Requirements

- A person is required to have a motorcycle license or class M endorsement on their license to operate a motorcycle or moped on public roadways.
- There are four types of motorcycle licenses. The most common is an unrestricted Class M.

License Requirements



Types of Class M Licenses

- Class M – no restrictions, any type of motorcycle or moped.
- Class M with restriction code I – any moped or motorcycle with an engine displacement of less than 250 cc.
- Class M with restriction code K – any moped 50 cc or less with a top speed of 30 m.p.h.
- Class M with restriction code J – licensed m/c operator over 21y.o.a. in sight

Types of Class M Licenses

- Class M with restriction code I – any moped or motorcycle with an engine displacement of less than 250 cc.
- Must be at least 15 year of age or older,
- Pass a written traffic laws knowledge test,
- Pass a road skills test, but
- No school enrollment requirement.
- When license holder turns 16, the 250cc restriction is lifted.

Types of Class M Licenses

- Class M with restriction code K – any moped 50 cc or less with a top speed of 30 m.p.h
- Must be at least 15 year of age or older,
- Pass a written traffic laws knowledge test (applicable to mopeds),
- However, no road skills test is required, and
- No school enrollment requirement.

Getting an Unrestricted Motorcycle License

- Requires:
 - Knowledge Test
 - Vision Test
 - Riding Skills Test (or Motorcycle Safety Course when applicable)

3. Motorcycle Safety Course

- The motorcycle safety course used as a substitute for a Driver's Safety Course is not the same as the motorcycle safety course used as a substitute for a Riding Skills Test when obtaining a license?
- A. True
- B. False

4. Motorcycle Safety Course

- The Motorcycle Safety Course used for D.S.C and a substitute for the Riding Skills Test is not the same as the Motorcycle Safety Course that can be used in exempting a motorcycle rider from wearing protective headgear?
- A. True
- B. False

Riding Skills Test v. Motorcycle Safety Course

■ Riding Skills Test

- Must bring motorcycle, additional passenger vehicle with driver for examiner.
- Vehicle and driver must be legal.
 - Insurance
 - Registration
 - License

Motorcycle Safety Course

- DPS can waive the riding skills test for some motorcycle driver's license applicants.
- Applicants must have a current Class A, B, or C driver's license
- Applicants must complete a Department of Public Safety Approved Basic Motorcycle Operator Training Course.



Financial Responsibility

- Financial responsibility is required for motorcycles just as it is for other vehicles.

Helmets – Required or Not?



5. Helmets – Required or Not?

- It is against the law for someone over 21 y.o.a. to ride a motorcycle on a public street in Texas without wearing a helmet?
- A. True
- B. False

Helmets – Required or Not?

- A person in Texas commits an offense if he operates a motorcycle and doesn't wear an approved helmet.
- Really?

Helmet Law Exceptions

- It is an exception to Sec. 661.003 if:
 - The person required to wear the helmet, at the time of the offense, was over 21 years of age, and
 - Had successfully completed a motorcycle operator training and safety course,

Or

- Had a health insurance policy that provides at least \$10,000.00 in coverage for injuries sustained as a result of an accident on a motorcycle.

Helmets

- Can get a sticker from D.P.S. for \$5 upon proving over 21 and sufficient health insurance or completion of class.
- NHTSA estimates that motorcycle helmets reduce the likelihood of a crash fatality by 37 percent.
- Helmets are 67 percent effective in preventing brain injuries.

Helmets

- The year after Texas went from a universal helmet law to a weakened helmet law – motorcycle operator fatalities increased by 31 percent.
- Hospital costs from motorcyclists injured in accidents were less than \$10,000 in only 25% of the cases.

Helmet s

- Helmets must be DOT approved.
- There are helmets that do not meet approval.
- There is not a specific violation for this but a person could be charged with using non DPS approved equipment.





Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Class

- Class requirements governed by statute.
- Class is 16 hours long.
- Will substitute for D.S.C. if violation committed while operating motorcycle.
- Will allow rider to ride without helmet.



Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Class

- Provisions, guidelines and requirements for class are found in Chapter 662 of the Texas Transportation Code.
- Fee is typically \$190.
- It is a 16 hour class.



Miscellaneous Laws & Rules

- Have to pay toll but not more than cars.
- Motorcycles can use the HOV lanes even if only occupied by the driver.
- Passengers must wear helmets unless exemption applies.
- Motorcycles must be inspected and registered to operate on a public street.

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Texas Department of Transportation

Slow Down.

Buckle Up, Texas.

Drive Friendly.

**Stay Sharp,
Ride SMART**




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