



Ride Defensively and Aware

It's impossible to predict what other vehicles or pedestrians might do. Don't assume that they see you. Make your presence known by wearing brightly colored, preferably fluorescent, clothing. Use reflective materials on clothing and motorcycle, especially at night. Be alert at intersections because most crashes occur there. Watch for vehicles that turn or pull out of side streets in front of you. Check your mirrors before changing lanes. Watch for road hazards and anticipate traffic problems. Maintain safe speeds consistent with driving conditions and your capabilities.

Being inconsiderate of others on the road creates a negative image for all riders. Be courteous and follow these riding tips:

- Treat others on the road with courtesy and respect
- Avoid tailgating
- Avoid riding between lanes of slow moving or stopped traffic
- Know and obey traffic laws
- Use signals when appropriate

Be a Lifelong Learner

Experienced riders have already learned an important lesson - leave the ego at home and be open to learning something new. That's good advice in any walk of life. With motorcycling, it can separate life from death.

- Take *The Course* before you take the road. It's a good investment for life.
- Get your motorcycle license before you venture onto the streets.
- Ride with the right gear.
- Ride responsibly and defensively.
- Be a lifelong learner, and you'll enjoy riding for a lifetime.

Take *The Course*
Contact us for more information.



Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation



For more information visit:
www.LookLearnLive.org

Or contact:
Texas Department of Public Safety
1-800-292-5787
www.txdps.state.tx.us/msb

Motorcycling in the Lone Star State





If you haven't taken
The Course, take it.
It's a good investment
for life.

Whether riding a motorcycle or a moped, if you're on two wheels in Texas you'll need to know a few things. Enjoy Texas highways, *but first...*

Get Trained

No formal motorcycle training? Haven't ridden in a while? Under 18 and want a motorcycle license or endorsement? Take the time to take *The Course*.

The Course for Motorcycle Riders gives you life-saving information and riding experience. Take *The Course* on the weekends or evenings and learn the skills the right way like riding in a straight line, shifting, cornering and proper braking. You'll ride away with the knowledge and skills that give you the edge in unexpected situations—the dangers that are always out there.

Get Licensed

State law requires you to hold a valid motorcycle license (Class M driver's license) if you ride a motorcycle or moped on public roads. To get licensed you must pass a written test covering traffic laws pertaining to motorcycles, and demonstrate your road skills. That's where additional advantages of completing *The Course* comes in - present a basic course completion certificate and waive the road test! If you're under 18 you must take the basic course before applying for a motorcycle license.

Wear Proper Gear

Proper gear provides comfort, increases visibility, and offers protection. When you ride, just cover the skin you want to keep.

Riding without a helmet is a bad idea—period. A helmet should be:

- DOT-approved
- Snug-fitting and comfortable
- Bright-colored
- Securely fastened during your ride
- Fitted with a scratch-free face shield
- Free of cracks, loose padding, frayed straps, exposed metal or other defects.

Texas law says riders under 21 must always wear a helmet. Those 21 and older must also ride helmeted if they haven't completed a motorcycle safety course, or don't have health insurance with at least \$10,000 in medical benefits to cover injuries in the event of a motorcycle crash.

Protect yourself from the weather, bugs, and other flying debris. Wear shatterproof eye protection, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants (preferably denim), heavy shoes or boots that cover your ankles and full-fingered gloves. Just cover the skin you want to keep...*Simple*.

Don't Drink and Ride

Riding takes coordination, balance and most importantly, full mental focus. Alcohol affects them all, including your ability to:

- Make rational decisions
- Coordinate eye, hand and foot movements
- Maintain balance while maneuvering
- React quickly to traffic situations
- Scan the road for potential hazards
- Perceive moving objects
- See effectively at night
- React to others' mistakes

Your riding is affected at much lower levels than the legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit. Just two drinks can take you to 0.05. Texas takes drinking and riding seriously. You're legally intoxicated with a 0.08 BAC. If you're under 21, it's illegal for any alcohol to be in your system.

If you're convicted of DWI:

- Your driver's license can be suspended for up to 180 days
- You'll pay a fine between \$2,000 and \$10,000 dollars
- You'll receive a jail sentence of up to 10 years
- You'll have regular visits with a probation officer
- You'll be able to "give something back" through mandatory community service
- You'll have a criminal record for the rest of your life
- Your insurance rates will skyrocket