

General Facts

- Motorcycles make up less than 3% of Illinois registered vehicles, while accounting for nearly 15% of fatal motor vehicle crashes.
- Weather and roadway surface conditions are generally not factors in fatal motorcycle crashes. Approximately 98% of all fatal motorcycle crashes occur in clear weather on dry pavement.
- The three driver-related factors reported most frequently for fatal motorcycle crashes are:
 - Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of the posted speed limit
 - Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication
 - Improper lane usage
- Approximately 40% of motorcycle fatalities are riders not licensed to drive a motorcycle
- Motorcycling is inherently dangerous, but research shows that a DOT-certified helmet is 37% effective in reducing motorcycle fatalities and 67% effective in reducing serious brain injuries in the event of a crash.

Motorcycle Rider Safety Course Information

Motorcycles are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride, and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn the critical skills needed to ride safely. Motorcycling requires skill, concentration, and reasonable precautions. Although it is possible to ride a motorcycle on your own, trial and error is a tough teacher of motorcycling skills.

Improper Classification



Approximately 10% of motorcyclists ride without the proper classification. If you are caught riding without the proper classification, you could lose all of your driving privileges for a period of three months. **Don't let this happen to you!**

For more information, or to request a safety presentation, please send an email to the ISP Safety Education Unit at:

ISP.Safety.Education@illinois.gov

or contact your local ISP Troop:

<https://isp.illinois.gov/Patrol/TroopMap>



State of Illinois
Illinois State Police

Motorcycle Safety



Motorcycle Rider Safety Courses are available throughout Illinois, and are designed to make you a better rider no matter what your skill level.

<https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/safety/roadway/ssm/training-courses>



Illinois State Police

What is a Motorcycle?

Any motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.

Each of the vehicles below are required to have valid registration and insurance for use on Illinois roadways.



Scooter 50cc or less

A valid driver's license with no special classification required.



Small Motorcycle/Dirt Bike 51cc - 149cc

A valid driver's license with an "L" classification required.



Motorcycle 150cc and above

A valid driver's license with an "M" classification required.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Wear it! Use gloves, long sleeve shirts and pants, and always wear boots. Skin and asphalt do not mix well. The choice is yours.



RIDE DEFENSIVELY

Always watch the other person and assume they are not watching you. Leave yourself an "out" and be prepared for any situation.

SLOW DOWN

Leave your ego at home or on the track.

BE SEEN

Try to make eye contact with other drivers. Use your turn signals every time you change lanes or turn.



ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Do not mix any alcohol or drugs with your ride time. This is an absolute recipe for disaster. You must be at your sharpest while on your motorcycle. Prescription medications or alcohol can dull your senses and may reduce your ability to operate a motorcycle safely.

COVER YOUR BRAKES

This does not mean ride the brakes, just have your hand and foot on them in case you need them. Make this a habit and you will greatly increase your chances of getting out of a bad situation.

BE PATIENT

We all know the acceleration capabilities of a motorcycle and how quickly you can gain speed compared to cars. Just remember that acceleration can also carry you into a dangerous situation quicker as well. Relax and enjoy the ride.

PAY ATTENTION

At 60 miles per hour you are covering over 80 feet of roadway per second. Concentrate on the road in front of you and avoid daydreaming. Road debris is not a motorcyclist's friend and can get you in trouble quickly.

HELMET USAGE

On average, nearly 70% of motorcyclists killed in crashes, were NOT wearing a helmet. In Illinois, the choice is yours. Think about it... you will never see a professional rider without a helmet.

