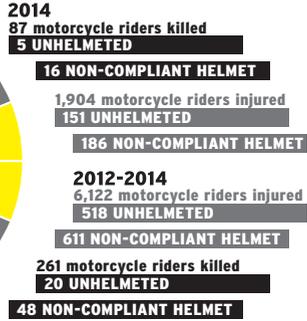
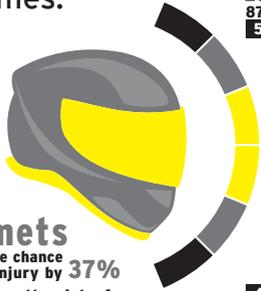


In Missouri, motorcycle riders are required to wear approved helmets at all times.

## Helmets

reduce the chance of fatal injury by **37%** and reduce the risk of sustaining a head injury by **69%** for motorcycle riders.



The single most important safety device a motorcyclist can have is a helmet. Chapter 302 of the Missouri Revised Statutes requires every motorcycle driver and passenger to wear approved protective headgear at all times while riding a motorcycle. In a crash without one, you are five times more likely to suffer a serious head injury than a helmeted rider.

When selecting a helmet, look for one with the Department of Transportation (DOT), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), or Snell Memorial Foundation certification and the date of manufacture.

A good helmet makes riding a motorcycle more fun. It cuts down on wind noise roaring by your ears, windblast on your face and eyes, and deflects bugs and other objects that fly through the air. It even contributes to comfort from changing weather conditions and reduces rider fatigue.



Missouri Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-4161  
800-800-BELT  
www.saveMOLives.com  
www.modot.org

This brochure paid for with federal highway safety funding by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Professional training can keep you safely on the road enjoying your motorcycle for years to come.

Whether you're a new rider or someone with years of experience, it's important to receive proper training before riding a motorcycle. Research has shown that more than 90 percent of all riders involved in crashes were either self-taught or taught by friends.

## Riding Skills

Regardless of your age, motorcycle safety courses are an excellent way to learn basic and advanced vehicle control and crash-avoidance skills. The Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program (MMSP) offers Motorcycle RiderCourses® for both beginners and experts. To locate an approved course near you, contact the MMSP at (800) 801-3588, or visit its web site at [www.mmsp.org](http://www.mmsp.org).

## Earning Your License

In Missouri, motorcyclists must complete and pass a written test and a riding test before obtaining a Class M license or M endorsement. (In most cases, you can avoid the riding test by passing a Motorcycle RiderCourse® from the MMSP.) All licensing issues are handled by the Missouri Department of Revenue. For licensing information, visit [www.dor.mo.gov](http://www.dor.mo.gov).

# Motorcycle Safety Being Seen & Staying Safe on Motorcycles



**ARRIVE  
ALIVE**

# Riding Tips

## What to Wear / What Not to Wear

### HELMET

Your most important piece of gear protects against head injury, windblast, cold and flying objects. Full face helmet recommended.

### GLOVES

Protect your hands.

### JACKET & PANTS

Long sleeves & pants protect against sunburn, road rash & windburn. Light colors or reflectives increase your visibility.

### BOOTS

Protect you against foot and ankle injuries and give you a good grip on footpegs or road surfaces.



### Bottom Line:

Proper riding gear protects you in the event of an accident and minimizes injuries. Stay safe on the roads!

### Improving Your Chances of Being Seen

It is important to remember that as a motorcyclist you have a relatively small profile. Statistics show that one in three motorists don't notice motorcycles around them, so you should do everything you can to increase your road profile. Always ride in a lane position that gives you a good view of the road ahead and the flexibility to react to the unexpected. Remember the driver of an automobile, truck or SUV has a large blind spot, and your bike is relatively small.

### Lane Sharing

Cars and motorcycles require a full lane to operate and maneuver safely. Lane sharing between a car and a motorcycle is usually prohibited. In some cases, lane sharing between two motorcycles may be allowed by law but is never recommended. As a motorcyclist, riding between rows of stopped or moving cars is illegal in Missouri.

### Road Hazards

Some adverse road conditions affect you much more on a motorcycle than in a car. Mud, sand, water and other foreign debris on the road take special handling.

Wherever possible, you should avoid these hazards by planning a route around them. If that's not possible, slow down and avoid directional or speed changes as you ride through the hazard.

### Riding With a Passenger

Riding with a passenger makes balance and control of your bike a greater challenge. Make sure your passenger is wearing proper riding gear, knows where and how to sit, where to put their feet and hands and how to lean through turns. Tell them to look over your shoulder in the direction of the turn. Remember the passenger is your responsibility and should be properly educated, prepared and ready to ride.

### Alcohol

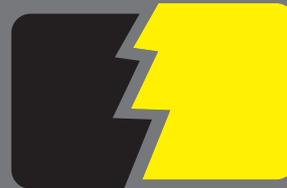
Alcohol is a major contributor to motorcycle crashes nationwide, particularly fatal crashes. Studies have shown that 40 to 45 percent of all fatal motorcycle crashes involve the use of alcohol. Motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had higher intoxication rates than any other type of motor vehicle driver.\*

\* Fatal Analysis Reporting System, National Highway Traffic Safety

Missouri could see a **38% INCREASE** in fatalities if the helmet law is repealed.

## Watch for MOTORCYCLES

In addition to the tragic loss of life and impact to individual families, crashes result in an annual economic loss in Missouri totaling nearly **\$9.1 million** per fatality (U.S. DOT).



**35%** of motorcycle drivers killed were either **unlicensed** or **improperly licensed**.



**38%** of motorcycle drivers killed were **speeding**.



**24%** of motorcycle drivers killed were **substance-impaired**.