



# California

**1 of 16**

states that mandates rider education for riders under a certain age.

**1 of 17**

states without a training capacity problem.

**1 of 20**

states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that has a universal helmet law.

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states with an education effort to increase helmet use.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	4,120	19,255,690	432	626,529
2005	4,333	19,638,969	469	675,336
2006	4,236	19,835,554	506	726,095

- In California, motorcycle fatalities represented 10 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities and 3 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 11 percent of fatalities but 3 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 12 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

#### GENERAL

- The California Highway Patrol (CHP) oversees the California Motorcyclist Safety Program (CMSP).
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in California.
- California has an active state-wide motorcycle advisory committee.
- California has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- A NHTSA assessment of the state's motorcycle safety program is expected in 2008.

#### RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Training/education is provided by the CMSP and is administered by the CHP. The CMSP is California's official motorcycle safety and training program. CMSP offers the basic rider course, the premier program course and, in varied locations, a dirt-bike course. The MSF curriculum is used for the basic rider course. The premier program consists of the MSF's Basic RiderCourse<sup>SM</sup> plus an additional two and a half hours of classroom time and three and a half hours of range time. The additional range time includes exercises based on MSF's Experienced RiderCourse<sup>SM</sup>. The dirt-bike course also uses MSF's curriculum.
- Rider training is mandatory for riders under 21.
- Training capacity is not an issue in California. CMSP has the current capacity to train all interested motorcyclists within the mandatory state imposed limit of no more than 90 days.
- California has a *Sharing the Road* program called *Be on the Look Out*. This was a federally-funded grant project that included strategies and activities involving the overtime deployment of officers on roadways within the state for enhanced enforcement and implementation of a *Sharing the Road* with motorcycles campaign. Campaign activities included the distribution of



press releases and education materials to enhance public awareness and support. Additionally, a motorcyclist safety DVD, *Thrill or Buzz Kill* was produced and will be released in May 2008 as part of Motorcycle Awareness Month.

- Information on sharing the road with motorcyclists is included in the state's driving manual. Sharing the road with all motor vehicles, including motorcycles, is a required component of the state's driver education/training curriculum.
- CMSP, as well as additional grants, provide a means for the state to educate motorcyclists on the importance of conspicuity, visibility (or the lack of), and proper riding positions to improve the chances of being observed on the road.

#### LICENSING

- The provisional license can be issued to a person at least 16 but under 18.
- All applicants, regardless of age, are required to have a learner's permit to practice driving. Applicants under 18 must hold the permit for at least six months before taking the driving test.
- Vision and knowledge tests are required of all applicants. The driving test is waived for applicants over 21 who successfully complete a rider education course.

#### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- California has a universal helmet law.
- In 2006, 67 of the 506 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- The state provides information on the benefits of helmet use through public awareness campaigns.
- California has a pamphlet for law enforcement officers that highlights non-compliant helmets. It appears in CHP policy and officers are expected to be aware of its contents.

#### IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- California has the *Driving Under the Influence* program and a *Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC)* program. These programs include enforcement for all vehicles including motorcycles.
- Impaired driving is part of the core curriculum in the CMSP. Instructors teach and emphasize the importance of not drinking and driving.
- The state encourages organizations to conduct alcohol and drug free motorcycling events through public awareness campaigns and corporate partnerships.
- California's *Be on the Lookout* campaign includes efforts on the dangers of riding impaired.
- The California Highway Patrol's focused enforcement campaigns include motorcyclists.

#### RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- The state's primary funding source is the California Motorcyclist Safety Fund. The state imposes a \$2.00 fee per motorcycle registration that is deposited into the fund for motorcycle rider training and education.
- The state has received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant.
- \$1,340,981.69 of federal funding was dedicated to motorcycle safety in 2006. No money was dedicated in 2004 or 2005.

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states and Puerto Rico with a program to help law enforcement identify non-compliant helmets.

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states and Puerto Rico with anti-impaired riding education efforts for motorcycle riders.

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states and Puerto Rico with anti-impaired riding enforcement efforts.