



# Delaware

**1 of 16**

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

The mandatory curriculum for novice drivers doesn't include sharing the road information.

**1 of 18**

states that had a NHTSA assessment of its motorcycle safety program.

**1 of 17**

states and Puerto Rico with a special impaired riding enforcement campaign.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	134 (140)	422,755	8 (9)	17,485
2005	133	427,740	21	18,987
2006	148 (147)	432,509	12 (11)	22,788

The data in parentheses was provided by the State of Delaware.

- In Delaware, motorcycle fatalities represented 6 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 16 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 8 percent of fatalities but 5 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

#### GENERAL

- The Delaware DMV and the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) share the responsibility for motorcycle safety.
- Delaware has a statewide motorcycle advisory committee. The main focus of the committee is rider education and training. Current membership includes a State Senator, a State Representative and representatives from: motorcycle dealerships, ABATE of Delaware, the State Controller General's Office, the DMV and the OHS.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Delaware.
- Delaware has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- In 1996, NHTSA conducted an assessment of Delaware's motorcycle safety program.

#### RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Delaware DMV is responsible for rider education and training.
- Rider education is mandatory for those under 18.
- Delaware offers the MSF's Basic and Experienced RiderCourses<sup>SM</sup>. The MSF DirtBike School<sup>SM</sup> is also offered within the state.
- Training capacity is an issue in Delaware. In the spring, when classes are first offered, the wait time is about three months. By June, the wait time is reduced to about 45 days. There are steps in place to address the capacity issue. First, there are plans to add two more training ranges in the northern counties of the state. Second, the state is considering increasing authorized training personnel and purchasing additional training motorcycles.



- In 2007, Delaware developed a *Sharing the Road* campaign. Campaign materials encourage motorcyclists to wear all appropriate safety gear, to be alert, to obey posted speed limits and to never drive impaired. Motorists are encouraged to be alert for motorcycles. These messages were promoted on billboard advertisements that were placed in 14 high crash locations. A brochure was also developed and placed in various motorcycle retail stores, distributed at safety fairs statewide and provided to safety partners for distribution at various motorcycling events. Print ads were also placed in publications with circulations in the identified target areas. Bumper stickers were also designed and distributed through similar channels.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcyclists is included in the state's driving manual but not in the curriculum for novice drivers.
- Conspicuity information is included in the state's rider training programs. This material is also covered in the motorcycle operator's manual.

#### **LICENSING**

- The minimum age for a learner's permit (for standard motor vehicles) is 16 – with graduated driver licensing restrictions (GDL). Teens aren't eligible for a motorcycle endorsement until they are 17, and the GDL restrictions no longer apply.
- Skills and knowledge tests are required of all applicants; however, the skills test is waived for successful completion of a rider training course.
- In an effort to encourage proper licensing, the state mails licensing and training information to owners of registered motorcycles when the primary owner is not a licensed operator. This program was just piloted in 2007. Note that Delaware is unusual in that there are more riders with a motorcycle endorsement on their license than there are registered motorcycles.
- All members of the motorcycle advisory committee are involved in encouraging proper licensing.

#### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Riders under 19 are required to wear a helmet. All other riders must have a helmet in their possession (if not on, then on the motorcycle).
- In 2006, eight of the 12 motorcyclists fatally injured in crashes were not wearing helmets.
- All of the rider training courses offered in the state include information on the benefits of helmets. This material is also covered in the motorcycle operator's manual.

#### **IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING**

- Information on the dangers of riding impaired is included in the state's training programs. This material is also covered in the motorcycle operator's manual.
- The motorcycle advisory committee supports alcohol and drug free motorcycling events.
- Federal 402 sub-grantees with impaired driving funding were directed to focus on impaired motorcyclists, if there was an identified problem in their jurisdiction.
- Not all impaired driving mobilizations include motorcycles. Focus on motorcycles is included in impaired driving mobilizations during those times of the year that data-driven problem identification indicates it is appropriate to do so.



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## RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- The motorcycle rider education program is funded through the state's general fund and federal grants (402 and 2010).
- Delaware received a section 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The funds are used by DMV to support instructor training, purchase additional training motorcycles and fund repairs to existing training motorcycles.
- In 2006, \$64,700 of federal 402 funding was obligated to motorcycle safety. This was in addition to section 2010 funds.