



Tennessee



1 of 28

states and Puerto Rico where the Highway Safety Office is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.

1 of 20

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

1 of 9

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

1 of 17

states without a training capacity problem.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	1,339	2,889,051	97	108,659
2005	1,270	2,832,604	129	122,087
2006	1,287	2,878,136	140	134,134

- In Tennessee, motorcycle fatalities represented 7 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 10 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 11 percent of fatalities but 5 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The Tennessee HSO is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.
- Tennessee has an active statewide motorcycle advisory committee.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Tennessee.
- Tennessee has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Tennessee Department of Safety's Motorcycle Rider Education Program is responsible for rider education and training.
- The MSF's Basic and Experienced RiderCoursesSM are offered in Tennessee. Scooter and trike courses are also offered in the state.
- Rider education is not required in Tennessee.
- Tennessee has a *Sharing the Road* program.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcyclists is included in the driver manual.
- Training capacity is not an issue; however, the state plans to start a mobile training program to prevent capacity problems in the future.
- Conspicuity information is included in the training programs offered in Tennessee.

LICENSING

- The minimum age for a motorcycle license is 16 in Tennessee. However, a limited motorcycle license can be issued as early as 14 in Tennessee. A limited license for this age has time, distance and motorcycle size limitations.
- Vision, knowledge and skills tests are required; however, the knowledge and skills tests may be waived for people who take a rider education course.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Tennessee has a universal helmet law.
- In 2006, 21 of the 140 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use is included in the state's training programs.
- Training is provided to law enforcement to help them identify non-compliant helmets.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Information on the dangers of impaired riding is included in the state's training programs.
- Tennessee's SFST program includes impaired motorcyclist detection tools. This NHTSA program provides training on the proper ways to conduct field sobriety testing and signs to look for with impaired drivers.
- All of the state's impaired driving mobilization campaigns include motorcyclists.

HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

- Motorcycle issues are considered in highway improvements when the state determines that there are safety issues along a route used by a large percentage of motorcycles. For example, there is a stretch of highway that runs through East Tennessee and North Carolina (U.S. Hwy 129) often referred to as the "Tail of the Dragon." The "Tail of the Dragon" is popular with motorcyclists. The road recently underwent a roadway safety audit review and many changes were made for motorcycle safety.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- Fees from each motorcycle registration, renewal and license are placed in a designated fund for motorcycle education. Federal grants are also used to support the program.
- Tennessee received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. A training video, a thirty second television spot and a radio spot were produced using grant funds. Radio airtime was also purchased with the grant money. The training video is utilized for motorcycle awareness training and shown at each motorcycle training class. Radio airtime was purchased to make motorists aware of motorcycles, and a television public service announcement ran as earned media during the campaign period.
- \$117,700 of federal funding was obligated to motorcycle safety in 2006.