



Texas

1 of 28

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

1 of 16

states, the District of Columbia and Guam without a motorcycle advisory committee.

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 27

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

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	3,699	8,735,544	290	286,992
2005	3,536	8,911,818	364	331,213
2006	3,475	8,805,316	346	355,878

- In Texas, motorcycle fatalities represented 8 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 3 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 10 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 10 percent of fatalities but 4 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

GENERAL

- The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Traffic Operations Division is the Highway Safety Office and the lead agency for traffic and motorcycle safety.
- The Texas Department of Public Safety's (TxDPS) Motorcycle Safety Training Unit is the lead agency for motorcycle training.
- Texas does not have an active motorcycle advisory committee.
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Texas.
- Texas has a motorcycle safety plan and motorcycle crashes are included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The TxDPS Motorcycle Safety Unit is responsible for motorcycle training and education.
- The MSF's Basic and Experienced Rider CoursesSM are offered in Texas. TxDPS oversees private contractors that provide rider training courses. The Rider's Edge® New Rider and Skilled Rider Courses are also offered by licensed providers. TxDPS provides oversight of motorcycle training for the state. Licensed providers also offer trike and sidecar training in the state.
- Rider education is mandatory for people under 18.
- Training capacity is not an issue in Texas; however, the state is proactively increasing capacity with mobile training units for use in rural and urban areas.
- TxDOT spearheads a *Sharing the Road* program. Program activities include the following:
- Displaying sharing the road messages on electronic/dynamic message boards across the state during motorcycle rallies.



- Installing share the road decals on the back of *Watch for Ice on Bridge* signs on roadways in the Texas Hill Country.
- Launching a partnership with the Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association (TMRA), called the *Summer Safety Campaign*, to encourage motorists to drive a safe speed and to pay particular attention to motorcyclists. Radio and television public service announcements entitled *Look Twice for Motorcycles* were created and aired.
- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is included in the state's driving manual and in the curriculum for new drivers.
- Conspicuity information is included in the TxDPS training programs.
- TXDOT, in a partnership with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), updated the TxDPS rider training program materials. The materials produced consisted of posters, brochures and stuffers that augment and/or replaced outdated materials.
- TXDOT provides oversight of the state's Motorcycle Safety Public Awareness Campaign (MSPAC) Project. The MSPAC Project is managed by TTI and consists of radio and television public service announcements, outdoor campaign materials and a dedicated website. The website address is LookLearnLive.org.

LICENSING

- The minimum age to receive a motorcycle license/endorsement is 15 in Texas. You must be 15 years old to obtain an instruction permit. Upon obtaining a permit, the applicant has to complete a driver education course and a motorcycle safety course. Both of these must be operated by approved providers, and completion forms must be submitted.
- Under Texas DMV guidelines, anyone who drives a motorcycle must have a Class M motorcycle license or motorcycle instruction permit. In addition to testing, all first time applicants must visit a Texas driver license office.
- Vision, knowledge and skills tests are required; however, the skills test may be waived for riders that take a rider training course.
- The TxDPS, the Texas Department of Insurance, TMRA and local law enforcement all work together to encourage proper licensing.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Riders under 21 are required to wear helmets. Texas exempts riders 21 years or older from wearing a helmet if they can show proof of successfully completing a motorcycle operator training course or a medical insurance policy.
- In 2006, 217 of the 346 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.

IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING

- Texas is developing an anti-impaired rider campaign. The campaign will include: materials, graphics and a video, public service announcements, a dedicated website for motorcycle safety and a kickoff event for the campaign. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to utilize NHTSA's *Motorcycle Driving While under the Influence Detection Guide*.



Texas

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

- Texas has a Motorcycle Education Fund Account. \$5.00 of the fee for an initial motorcycle license and \$8.00 for each motorcycle license renewal goes to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Motorcycle Education Fund Account. The state also collects a \$5.00 fee that goes to the education fund when the DPS issues a helmet exemption sticker. Helmet exemption stickers are given upon application to people who are at least 21 years old and either complete motorcycle training or show proof of proper insurance coverage.
- Texas received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The money was used to purchase training units and tow vehicles to increase capacity across the state. The plan is to increase training capacity by purchasing two mobile training units including tow vehicles by September 30, 2008. The money will also be used to produce a minimum of two separate motorcycle safety awareness messages using vehicle wrap technology on the mobile training units by September 30, 2008. As of March 27, 2008, the trailers were in the bid process with the tow vehicles pending.
- Funds were also used to support activities of the state's *Summer Safety Campaign*.
- Federal 402 grants have also been used to fund motorcycle safety activities.
- \$316,000 of federal funding was obligated to motorcycle safety in 2006.