

STATE OF VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

NEWS RELEASE

Look Out for Motorcycles, Motor Driven Cycles & Have the Right Gear

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Montpelier, Vt. - Motorcycles really are everywhere. In fact, VT motorcycle registrations have increased 50% from 18, 839 to 28,330, over the past seven years from 2002-2009. Comparatively, passenger cars increased only 2.5% in VT during the same period.

Motorcycle crashes nationally have increased and in Vermont have remained fairly steady. Vermont has averaged 232 motorcycle crashes during the past five years from 2005-2009. By severity these include in the five year average (per year);

Property damage	63.2
Injury	159.6
Fatal	9.2

The Vermont State Police and other law enforcement agencies have increased motorcycle enforcement, specifically as it relates to equipment safety violations. Law enforcement officers will stop motorcycle riders who fail to wear compliant helmets that meet certain DOT (US Department of Transportation) requirements under state law. These non-compliant or novelty helmets are not designed to be worn while riding motorcycles and offer little to no head protection. Compliant helmets should contain a legitimate DOT sticker on the outside. In 2009, three out of seven motorcycle fatalities were wearing non-compliant helmets.

A new classification of vehicle, "Motor Driven Cycle", was created by the Vermont legislature during the 2010 session and goes into effect on September 1, 2010. This vehicle definition includes some small, low powered motorcycles and vehicles previously defined as mopeds. To meet the definition of a Motor Driven Cycle a vehicle must meet the following requirements:

- have two or three wheels
- an engine size of 50cc or less
- a power source providing no more than two braking horsepower
- a transmission that functions directly or automatically
- a top speed of 30 mph or less on a level road A motor driven cycle must be registered, inspected and insured. Additionally, the operator must have a valid driver's license

Other motor vehicles also need to be aware of the increase in motorcycles and motor driven cycles and look out for them while turning or merging onto public highways.