

## The Risk of Unlicensed Riding...

If you are one of the two million or so Americans who ride without a valid motorcycle license, you belong to one of the highest-risk vehicle operator groups on our nation's streets and highways.

Most of us know that motorcyclists are much more likely to be killed or injured in accidents than automobile drivers. It is less well known that *unlicensed* motorcycle riders represent a much higher accident risk than *licensed* riders. Why? Because most unlicensed riders lack the knowledge, training and experience necessary to pass a licensing exam—or ride safely on the street.

Unlicensed riders come in many shapes and sizes—including rank novices trying out a friend's bike, new bike owners who are just learning to ride, and under-aged riders who are simply too young to hold an operator's license. There are also veteran motorcyclists riding with revoked or suspended licenses—which means they have a history of safety violations and/or recklessness that makes them even greater accident risks.

Of course, you might not fall into any of these categories. You may consider yourself a capable rider who just hasn't gotten around to getting licensed. If that's the case, you ought to get licensed soon. Because, you are riding in very dangerous company...

  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
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## Ride Licensed!

- If you're not old enough to get an operator's license, don't ride on public roads.
- If you're a beginning rider, take a state-approved training course and get a license.
- If your license has been suspended—especially for unsafe riding—you are in a very high risk group. Stop riding until your suspension is lifted. And get training to change your unsafe riding habits.
- If you're an experienced rider who just hasn't bothered to get a license, get one. You're keeping dangerous company, and you can't afford the fines and hassle of having your bike towed.
- If you're a licensed rider, encourage your unlicensed motorcycling friends to become licensed as well.
- If you're a licensed rider, don't loan your bike to a friend who doesn't have a license. You could lose your friend as well as your bike.

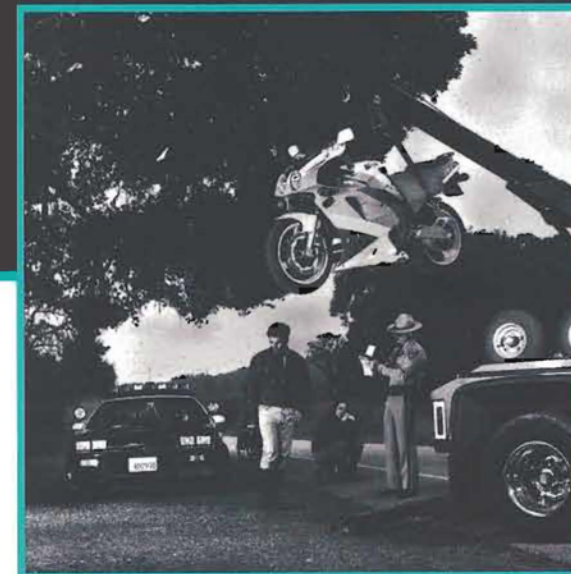
Take the time to get a motorcycle license. Avoid seeing your bike towed away and impounded. Avoid paying hefty fines, or going to jail. More importantly, minimize the risk of becoming an accident statistic. Ride licensed!



CAMPAIGN TO LICENSE AMERICA!

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## Don't Get Towed.



You are riding your motorcycle down the road. A siren comes on and you pull off to the side. Suddenly, you're being ticketed. Your expensive motorcycle is hoisted into the air and towed away. You and your friend have to find another way home. Later, you'll have to pay some hefty fines and fees to get your bike back. Why the heavy hassle? Because you were caught riding without a license...

## Get Licensed.

1-800-99BELTS  
TNTRAFFICSAFETY.ORG



## It's a Big Problem.

Accident statistics tell a chilling story about unlicensed riders. There have been nearly 40,000 fatal motorcycle crashes in the United States over the last 10 years. Some 42 percent of these crashes involved riders who were not licensed to ride motorcycles — even though it is estimated that only 20 percent of all motorcyclists ride unlicensed.

This means that—statistically—if you ride a motorcycle without a valid license, you are far more likely to be involved and killed in a motorcycle accident than a validly licensed rider.

Your risk is even higher if you're a younger rider. Over half (55 percent) of the unlicensed riders killed in traffic crashes are under 25. And if you're riding with a suspended or revoked license, it is estimated that you are *20 times more likely* to be involved in a fatal crash than a validly licensed rider.

Why does licensing make such a difference? Quite simply, you have to pass skill and knowledge tests in order to qualify for a license. So licensed riders tend to be better trained, more skilled and more experienced than their unlicensed counterparts.

## The Penalties Are Tough.

It depends on where you live, but if you ride without a valid motorcycle license, you can be *ticketed, fined* and in some cases, even *jailed*.

And even if you're a first-time offender, if you are caught riding without a valid license, your motorcycle can be impounded and towed away—on the spot.

Impoundment is a major inconvenience. You have to find another way to get around. If you want your bike back, you have to get your license anyway. And it usually costs a small fortune in fines and fees.

Every state with a license requirement now has laws authorizing impoundment—and it has become a more common "on-the-spot" penalty imposed by traffic officers for unlicensed riding.

To summarize: If you're caught riding without a valid license, you can lose your bike. You can lose a lot of money. And worst of all, you run a much higher risk, statistically, of losing your life.

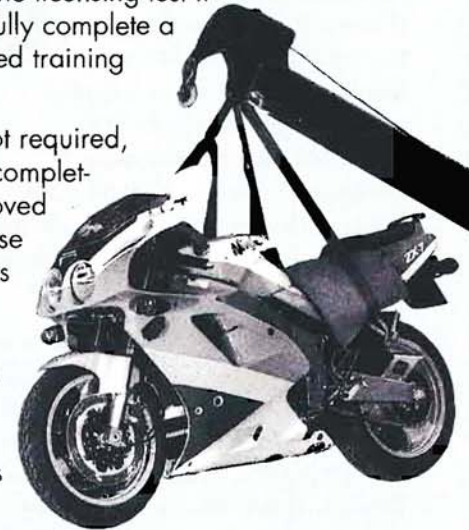


## The Solution Is Easy.

There's a simple way to minimize the risk of riding unlicensed—and to avoid the issue of impoundment before the law makes it a problem: *If you don't have a proper motorcycle license or endorsement—go get one!*

Obtaining a license is relatively easy. In most states, you simply have to pay a nominal fee—and pass the written and riding tests given by your state's licensing agency. Some states will even waive the licensing test if you successfully complete a state-approved training course.

Even if it's not required, successfully completing an approved training course in the process of getting your license will give you better skills and greater enjoyment as a rider.



Call 1-800-447-4700  
to locate the training course nearest you.

# Ride Licensed!

