



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

Story courtesy of Rob Miller: WisDOT Office of Public Affairs

WisDOT Motorcycle Safety Program aims to get all motorcyclists trained, licensed and ready for the road ahead.

There's nothing quite like the freedom and exhilaration that comes with driving a motorcycle. But as any long-time rider will tell you, safely operating a motorcycle requires unique physical and mental skills. It requires drivers that are properly trained, licensed and equipped to safely handle the many challenges unique to motorcycling.

To help address these challenges, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Motorcycle Safety Program (WMSP) focuses on two primary goals: enhancing rider training opportunities; and educating all highway users on the importance of sharing the road, being alert and safe at all times.

For any new motorcyclist, one of the first requirements is obtaining the needed Class M license. There are two options to get properly licensed: pass a motorcycle driving skills test at a Division of Motor Vehicles service center; or successfully complete a qualified rider education course.

For a nominal fee, professional trainers guide riders through classroom and on-the-bike instruction. Successful completion of the Basic Rider Course (BRC) or the Basic Rider Course 2



Daily Specials
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Happy Hour M-F from 3-6
Open Daily at 8 am
Outdoor Seating



Located right on the north border of
Pattison State Park on Hwy 35. (S State Road 35)
6198 S State Road 35, Superior | 715.399.8979



(for motorcycles) qualifies students for their Wisconsin Class M motorcycle license (no additional road/skill testing is needed). The BRC is offered at nearly 40 locations across Wisconsin including many technical colleges, motorcycle dealers and private driver training schools. The 16-hour class is typically completed over two or three days.

“Successfully completing a basic rider course is a great option for getting a Class M license,” Sarah Buzzell, Manager of WisDOT’s Motorcycle Safety Program said. “You’ll come out of the course a much more capable and confident rider, and the skills you learn can easily save your life.”

To help educate all motorists on highway safety issues, WisDOT uses the Safe Motorcyclist Awareness and Recognition Trainers (SMARTrainer) program. It involves mobile trailers and trained instructors who engage citizens at motorcycle rallies and other public events. The SMARTrainer traffic simulators provide an interactive and real-world experience allowing riders and non-riders to learn more about sharing the road, crash avoidance, and awareness of traffic and road hazards. There’s also a Distracted Driving Simulator where people can experience the consequences of distracted driving without putting themselves or anyone else at



The Pheasant Inn & Sports Bar

All you can eat soup, salad & pizza \$9

Monday - Friday from 11:30 am - 2 pm



Homemade pizzas till 1 am daily

Full Menu ■ Serving Lunch & Dinner



**SHOW YOUR
GUIDE
FOR
HALF
PRICE
APPETIZER**



**ONE USE PER
CUSTOMER**

Expires 9/30/19

Hwy. 35 & Main St., Siren, WI | 715-349-5755 | Open at 11 Daily



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

(continued)

risk. Fatal Vision Goggles allow people to experience with a sober mind what it's like to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Along with rider training and public education, WisDOT's Motorcycle Safety Program staff monitor social trends that impact training and outreach strategies. One growing trend: middle-age people who drove a motorcycle when they were younger, quit for several years, and then resume riding - often on a motorcycle that's more powerful and very different from what they previously rode.

"For many middle-age drivers, their motorcycle skills and physical reflexes have likely diminished over the years," Buzzell said. "No matter your age or level of experience, taking a motorcycle safety refresher course is a wise investment that will sharpen your skills and help you better understand your limitations."

WisDOT officials stress that safety on our roadways requires everyone to do their part.

If you're driving a car or truck:

- Always look twice for motorcycles. Due to their smaller profile, it's easy to misjudge the speed and distance of an oncoming motorcycle.
- Be especially careful when pulling out from a stop sign, turning at an intersection and when changing lanes.

If you're operating a motorcycle:

- Wear all the gear, all the time. This includes visible and protective equipment.
- Scan the road ahead carefully and adjust your speed accordingly. Gravel or sand especially on curves can be hazardous.
- Get properly trained and licensed. Take a safety refresher course that matches your level of experience.