

Before You Take the Road

Make sure you are properly licensed

Driving a car and riding a motorcycle require different skills and knowledge. Although motorcycle-licensing regulations vary, Kansas requires a motorcycle license endorsement to supplement your automobile driver's license. To receive the proper endorsement, you'll need to pass written and on-cycle skills tests administered by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Kansas Department of Revenue
785-296-3963 or www.ksrevenue.org

Searching for a Motorcycle Instruction Course or Motorcycle

Kansas has Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructors and educational classes available across the state.



Go to www.ktsro.org or call 800-416-2522 for information on a class in your neighborhood.

Answers

1.False 2.False 3.True 4.True 5.True
6.True 7.False 8.True 9.True 10.True

Ride responsibly

Experienced riders know local traffic laws - and they don't take risks. Obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits, and lane markings; ride with the flow of traffic and leave plenty of room between your bike and other vehicles; and always check behind you and signal before you change lanes. Remember to ride defensively. Many of the multi-vehicle motorcycle crashes are caused when other drivers simply don't see the motorcyclist. You can increase your visibility by applying reflective materials to your motorcycle and by keeping your motorcycle's headlight on at all times, even using high beams during the day. Proceed cautiously at intersections and yield to pedestrians and other vehicles as appropriate.

Be alcohol and drug free

Alcohol and drugs, including some prescribed medications, negatively affect your judgment, coordination, balance, throttle control, and ability to shift gears. These substances also impair your alertness and reduce your reaction time. Even when you're fully alert, it's impossible to predict what other vehicles or pedestrians are going to do. Therefore, make sure you are alcohol and drug free when you get on your motorcycle. Otherwise, you'll be heading for trouble.



KANSAS Traffic Safety Resource OFFICE

Kansas Department of Transportation

2930 SW Wanamaker Dr, Ste 100

Topeka, KS 66614

800-416-2522

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Increasing Motorcycle Awareness

BE AWARE! Motorcycles Are Everywhere



A Program of the Kansas Department of Transportation

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How can I become more aware?

Drivers

Drivers tend to look for other cars, not motorcycles. Because of its smaller profile, a motorcycle is harder to see, and you may find it more difficult to estimate the motorcycle's speed. The motorcyclist's riding pattern is different from the driver's pattern. Different actions may be needed for the same driving or highway situation. For example, drivers may ignore a piece of road debris; however, that same piece of road debris may be deadly for the motorcyclist.

Traffic, weather, and road conditions require a motorcyclist to react differently from a driver; thus, it is more difficult for the driver to judge or predict cues that may require the motorcyclist to take an evasive action.

Remember, the motorcycle has all the same privileges of any vehicle on the roadway.



Motorcyclists

As a motorcyclist, you should make your presence known to the other vehicles. Select and wear an appropriate helmet with retro-reflective materials. Wear bright, contrasting, protective clothing. If you choose darker clothing, wear a fluorescent vest.

Large vehicles, such as sport utility vehicles, delivery vans and large trucks, may block a motorcycle from a driver's view.

Use high-beam rather than low-beam headlights during the day. Proper lane position is important to being seen and for protecting your riding space. If you can see the driver in the side-view mirror, the driver can see you.

Do not ride in the driver's blind spot! Clearly communicate your intentions by signaling appropriately. Let the driver know what you intend to do.

Do not assume the driver of another vehicle can see you. As a motorcyclist, it is your responsibility to make your presence known.

Advice to Motorcyclist

- Make yourself visible. Proper gear will increase your visibility and provide protection.
- A motorcycle helmet is your most valuable piece of protective gear and should be quite visible to the driver.
- Ride where you can be seen and avoid other driver's blind spots.
- Make lane moves gradually and use signaling.
- Riders should never mix alcohol and riding.

Advice to Drivers

- Look out for the motorcyclist at intersections and when making a left turn.
- Give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel.
- Clearly signal your intentions.
- Anticipate a motorcyclist's maneuver to avoid obstructions that are minimal to your vehicle but may be deadly for a motorcyclist.
- Do not follow a motorcyclist too closely.
- Be aware of blind spots. Window/door frames can block your view of a motorcycle.

Kansas Law

No person under the age of 18 shall operate or ride upon a motorcycle or a motorized bicycle, unless wearing a helmet which complies with minimum guidelines established by NHTSA.

No person shall operate a motorcycle unless wearing an eye-protective device which shall consist of protective glasses, goggles or transparent face shields which are shatter proof and impact resistant, except when the motorcycle is equipped with a windscreen which has a minimum height of 10" measured from the center of the handlebars. KSA 8-1598

Any person operating in this state a motorcycle which is registered in this state shall be the holder of a class **M** driver's license. KSA 8-235

Additional fee for Class M License: \$12.50
Penalty for no Class M License: Class B Misdemeanor. Fine up to \$1000 and/or imprisonment up to 6 months.

Check your cycle savvy

True or False:

1. Riding a motorcycle is the same as driving a car.
2. Driving a car is much more tiring than riding a motorcycle.
3. A motorcycle helmet that meets the federal safety standard is your best protection from head injury in the event of a crash.
4. Because motorcycles are smaller than automobiles, they are more difficult to see and their speed is more difficult to judge.
5. I can be fined up to \$1,000 for operating a motorcycle if I do not have an M endorsement on my license.
6. All states require a motorcycle-only license or a motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license to operate a motorcycle on the highway.
7. An oversized helmet that does not crush your hair is just as effective as a snugly fitting helmet in preventing a head injury and lessening its severity.
8. In most cases, the actual temperature inside a helmet never rises more than 1 or 2 degrees above body temperature.
9. Head injury is a leading cause of death in a motorcycle crash.
10. Riding a motorcycle in a safe, responsible manner is an exhilarating experience.

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