

RCMP Issue Motorcycle Safety Tips as New Laws Take Effect

Motorcycle fatalities continue to be of serious concern in BC. According to provincial data, motorcycles make up about 3% of insured vehicles yet they make up approximately 10% of road fatalities. On average, 42 riders are killed and 2,200 crashes involving motorcycles occur on BC roads every year.

Recently, the Provincial Government has made amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act in an effort to improve motorcycle safety in BC.

NEW Motorcycle Safety Laws (Helmet and Seating):

- Starting June 1, 2012, motorcycle riders and passengers will be required to wear Snell, ECE or DOT compliant helmets. For a one month period starting June 1, police across the province will help ensure a smooth transition to the new laws by carrying out an educational enforcement strategy. If you are caught without a proper helmet, police, whenever possible, will ensure you have safe alternative transportation rather than issuing a ticket. **Full enforcement will begin July 1, 2012;**
- In addition to improved helmet laws, new seating laws will require motorcycle riders to keep their feet placed on the foot pegs or floorboards or be seated in a sidecar. Violation of seating requirements will be treated as stunt riding and will result in motorcycle impoundment and fines. **Impoundment is mandatory and will begin June 1, 2012.**

Safety Tips and Best Practices:

- **Wear an approved helmet.** DOT, Snell or ECE approved helmets are now law in BC. Ensure you display proper label in order to avoid being checked by police. Look for an expiry date and update your helmet if necessary;
- **Always carry out a visual inspection** of the motorcycle (Tires, oil levels, brakes, gas);

- **Wear highly visible protective gear** including jacket, pants, gloves and riding boots. Choose clothing that has fluorescent material and reflective striping;
- **Make sure all riders are properly seated and can reach the foot pegs.** This is now the law in BC;
- **Double your awareness, particularly at intersections.** Visual contact with all other road users is a must and remains a highly effective way to avoid collisions. More collisions occur at intersections than anywhere else;
- **Always respect speed limits** and where needed, adjust your speed for the conditions and when approaching road curves in order to negotiate them properly.

Motorcycle safety starts with the rider and flows through everyone on our roads states Sgt. Al Steinhauer of the Prince George RCMP's Municipal Traffic Section. Police have a duty to protect the public, including violators of traffic or Criminal laws that put themselves at risk.

For more motorcycle safety information, go to [External Linkwww.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com) (English only).