

A MESSAGE FROM NH SEACOAST LAW ENFORCEMENT

Seacoast Law Enforcement welcomes motorcyclists to New Hampshire. The Seacoast area is a beautiful and inviting area to tour and visit on a motorcycle. The warm weather and sandy beaches attract motorcyclists from all over the Northeast, bringing along an increase in complaints from local residents to their Police Departments regarding loud exhaust systems.

The Seacoast NH Police Departments are committed to working with its citizens, businesses, and visitors to ensure the desirable qualities that the Seacoast offers are maintained.

This brochure is designed to educate motorcyclists on the more commonly misunderstood motorcycle laws.

Please be considerate of residents' concerns and do whatever is necessary to minimize the noise level of your motorcycle's exhaust system.

COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD MOTORCYCLE LAWS

Muffler

RSA 259:66

"Muffler" shall mean a device consisting of a series of *chambers* or *baffle plates* or other *mechanical design* for the purpose of

receiving exhaust gases and effectively reducing noise.

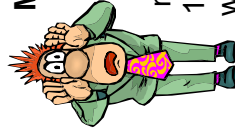
Muffler; Prevention of Noise

RSA 266:59

No person shall operate a motorcycle with a straight pipe exhaust system; "**straight pipe exhaust system**" means any straight-through exhaust system that does not contain baffles or otherwise does not meet the definition of muffler in RSA 259:66.



First offense \$100, with a maximum fine up to \$500 in a calendar year.



Motorcycle Noise Levels

RSA 266:59a

No person shall operate a motorcycle which has a measured noise level of more than 106 decibels on the decibel meter, while the engine is operating at 2,800 revolutions per minute for 1 and 2 cylinder motorcycles and 3,500 revolutions per minute for any motorcycle with 3 or more cylinders.

Protective Headgear

RSA 265:122

No person less than 18 years of age may drive or ride upon a motorcycle unless he wears protective headgear of a type approved by the director that meets the "DOT" requirements. Such headgear shall be equipped with either a neck or chinstrap. New Hampshire law enforcement strongly suggests the use of helmets for all motorcyclists regardless of age. Wearing a

helmet can drastically increase the chances of survival and decrease severity of the injury.

Eye and Face Protection

RSA 265:123

If a motorcycle is not equipped with a windshield/screen, which protects the driver's eyes and face when the driver is sitting erect, the driver shall wear protective eyewear when the motorcycle is in motion.

Grips, Handlebars- "Ape hangers"

RSA 266:77

No person shall drive on a motorcycle in which the grips are higher than the shoulder level of the driver when in the seat or saddle. It shall be illegal to drive a motorcycle with improvised, defective or repaired handlebars.

Inspection Authorized

RSA 266:1

Motorcycles and recreational vehicles shall be inspected annually by July 1st. Motorcycles must display a valid inspection decal on the left fork of a motorcycle registered in New Hampshire.



Seacoast communities also have local ordinances that address noise and other prohibited actions, such as; **Misuse of Power and Misuse of Braking Power, Rapid Acceleration/Deceleration and Racing of Engines.**

Motorcycle accidents are extremely dangerous because of the high risk of fatality.

A study known as “**The Hurt Study**” out of the University of Southern California revealed a large cause of motorcycle accidents is the failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles.

The study also determined that in 92% of motorcycle accidents, the motorcyclist was self taught or learned from family or friends.

The State of New Hampshire has motorcycle safety training courses using the curriculum of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. These training courses are for Basic, Intermediate and Experienced riders.

The training courses are offered throughout the State of New Hampshire.

NH Department of Safety
Division of Motor Vehicles
Motorcycle Rider Training Course

nh.gov/safety/dmv/motorcycle
(603) 271-7000



HAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 929-4444

NEWMARKET POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 659-6636

GREENLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 431-4624

NEWINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 431-5461

SEABROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 474-5200

N.H. STATE POLICE TROOP G
TELE # (603) 271-3339

EXETER POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 772-1212

NORTH HAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 964-8621

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 436-3800

RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 964-5522

STRATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 778-9691

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE
TELE # (603) 271-3636

PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
TELE # (603) 427-1500

Motorcycle Informational Brochure



**Seacoast
New Hampshire
Law Enforcement**