

# 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 local Police Departments regarding loud exhaust systems.

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

This brochure was 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 while 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.

PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
TELE # (603) 427-1500

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

DMV HIGHWAY PATROL  
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) 4360-3800

RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
TELE # (603) 964-5522  
TELE # (603) 778-9691

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

STRATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT  
TELE # (603) 778-9691

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

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

[nh.gov/safety/dmv/motorcycle](http://nh.gov/safety/dmv/motorcycle)  
(603) 271-7000



# Motorcycle Informational Brochure



Seacoast  
New Hampshire  
Law Enforcement