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A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-2379

Q: What are some of the laws I need to know before I can ride a motorcycle?

A: A motorcyclist has to abide by the same traffic laws as a driver of a motor vehicle. There are some different requirements that a person needs to do before they can ride a motorcycle.

In order to ride a motorcycle in the State of Minnesota, you need a valid driver license and a motorcycle endorsement. To obtain a motorcycle endorsement, you need to pass a written exam and take a road test. If you are over 16 years of age, but less than 18 years of age, you are required to take a motorcycle training course.

Once you have taken the written exam and get your instruction permit, there are a few regulations you need to follow. These regulations apply to anyone with a motorcycle instruction permit. The rider is required to wear a helmet. The rider is not allowed to have passengers on the motorcycle. The rider is not allowed to ride the motorcycle on the interstate, and the rider is not allowed to ride the motorcycle at night. An instruction permit is valid for one year and may be renewed.

Some other items that are required when you are riding a motorcycle and it applies to everyone that has an endorsement or an instruction permit. A motorcycle has to be equipped with at least one rear view mirror. The headlight has to be on while the motorcycle is in operation. The motorcycle has to be equipped with at least one horn which should be audible at a distance of 200 feet.

If you are under the age of 18, you are required to wear a helmet. This applies to driver and passenger. The driver is also required to wear some type of eye protection device. Having a windshield on the motorcycle is not considered eye protection.

As a motorcyclist, you need to drive defensively. Because of their size, not all motorists will see motorcycles riding down the road or at intersections. Make sure your equipment is working properly, be visible and obey the traffic laws

I hope this answers some of the question you may have had about riding a motorcycle.

Ride safe and have a great summer.

OFFICER MICHAEL W. EARL
Owatonna Police Department