

# Head to Toe Protection

The single most important safety device a motorized scooter/pocket bike operator can have is a helmet. St. Louis County Ordinance 1210.105 requires that every operator of a motorized scooter/pocket bike, under the age of 17, wear approved protective headgear at all times. It is suggested that motorized scooter/pocket bike operators of ALL ages wear a helmet. In a crash without one, you are five times more likely to suffer a serious head injury than a helmeted rider. No matter how short the ride, always wear a helmet.

When selecting a helmet, look for one with the Department of Transportation (DOT), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or Snell Memorial Foundation certification and the date of manufacture.

Plan to replace your helmet if you are involved in a crash. Most helmet manufacturers recommend replacing your helmet every two to four years. If you notice any signs of damage, replace it.

## Facial Protection

Helmets that provide full face coverage with strong chin pieces and energy-absorbing liners are the best option for reducing face injuries.

## Clothing

Whenever you ride, wear the proper clothing, which includes:

- A helmet (US DOT approved or better)
- Eye protection
- Long-sleeved shirt or jacket
- Long pants
- Sturdy shoes with non-skid soles

# Police Services

Resources	
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	636-529-8210
TTY Hearing Impaired	636-529-8220 or 911
Precincts	
North County	314-615-4297
Central County	314-615-0111
Affton-Southwest	314-638-5550
South County	314-615-0162
City of Fenton	636-349-8120
City of Wildwood	636-458-9194
West County	636-225-0425
City of Jennings	314-385-4672

# Motorized Scooters and Pocket Bikes



St. Louis County Police Department  
7900 Forsyth Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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[stlouiscountypolice.com](http://stlouiscountypolice.com)

# Goals

The purpose of this brochure is to provide the public with guidance in safely and lawfully owning and operating motorized scooters and pocket bikes within St. Louis County.

# Definitions

**Pocket Bike** - miniature replica of a full-size motorcycle powered by an internal combustion engine or electricity, 49cc or smaller and a maximum speed of 30 MPH.

**Motorized Scooter** – a scooter similar to foot-powered but powered by an internal combustion engine or electricity, 49cc or smaller and a maximum speed of 30 MPH.

**Motorcycle** - more than 49cc and a maximum speed exceeding 30 MPH.

**Motor Vehicle** - any mechanical device on wheels, in, upon, or by which persons may be transported upon a highway, roadway, alleyway or driveway, not moved by human power or used exclusively upon rails or tracks.

# Do You Know the Laws?

**Q. Does the operator of a motorized scooter/pocket bike need to be licensed?**

A. YES. All operators of motorized scooters/pocket bikes must be licensed in order to operate on a roadway (SCLRO 1213.020).

**Q. Does the operator need to be motorcycle qualified?**

A. NO. Operators of motorized scooters/pocket bikes are not required to be motorcycle qualified (RSMo 303.020).

**Q. How old must one be to operate a motorized scooter/pocket bike on a roadway?**

A. The minimum age to operate a motor-ized scooter/pocket bike on a roadway is the same that is required to obtain a driver's license (SLCRO 1213.020).

**Q. Do motorized scooters/pocket bikes need to be inspected/licensed?**

A. NO. Motorized scooters/pocket bikes are not required to be inspected/licensed (RSMo 303.020).

**Q. Are motorized scooter/pocket bike operators subject to the “excessive vehicle noise” ordinance?**

A. YES. Operators of motorized scooters/pocket bikes are prohibited from creating excessive noise (SLCRO 1217.010).

**Q. Does the operator of a motorized scooter/pocket bike need to show proof of insurance if stopped by the police?**

A. NO. Operators of motorized scooters/pocket bikes are not required to maintain or show proof of insurance (RSMo 303.020).

**Q. Are operators of motorized scooters/pocket bikes required to wear helmets?**

A. YES. Operators of motorized scooters/pocket bikes, who are under the age of 17, are required to wear helmets (SLCRO 1210.105).

**Q. Are motorized scooters/pocket bikes allowed to be operated on sidewalks?**

A. NO. Motorized scooters/pocket bikes shall not be operated on sidewalks (SLCRO 1212.130).

Under St. Louis County Ordinance 1202.010(20), motorized scooters/pocket bikes are considered motor vehicles. All violations, including speed and lighting, shall be dealt with in the same manner.

# Riding Tips

## Improving Your Chances of Being Seen

It is important to remember that as a motorized scooter/ pocket bike rider, you have a relatively small profile. Statistics show that one in three motorists do not notice bikes around them. The same may be true with motorized scooters/pocket bikes, so you should do everything you can to increase your road profile. Always ride in a lane position that gives you a good view of the road ahead and the flexibility to react to the unexpected. Remember - the driver of an automobile, truck or SUV has a large blind spot and your motorized scooter/pocket bike is relatively small.

## Lane Sharing

As a motorized scooter/pocket bike rider, traveling between rows of stopped or moving cars is illegal and can leave you vulnerable to the unexpected.

## Road Hazards

Some adverse road conditions affect you much more on a motorized scooter/pocket bike than in a car. Mud, sand, water and other foreign debris on the road require special handling. Whenever possible, you should avoid these hazards. Slow down and avoid directional or speed changes as you ride through the hazard.

## Alcohol

Alcohol is a major contributor to motorcycle and bike crashes nationwide, particularly fatal crashes. Studies have been shown that between 40 to 45 percent of all fatal crashes involving motorcycle and bike operators involve the use of alcohol. The operators involved in fatal crashes had higher intoxication rates than any other type of motor vehicle driver. The same dangers can be associated with operating a motorized scooter/pocket bike under the influence of alcohol.