

Motorcycle CA DMV Prep Guide



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Introduction

Having a plan and proper preparation are key parts to motorcyclists reducing risk and increasing fun on any ride!

Approach getting your motorcycle license and learning to ride as a skillful motorcyclist would; with a plan and proper preparation. Developing this important habit of planning and preparation will help you become a skillful motorcyclist.

The purpose of this Motorcycle CA DMV Prep Guide is to help you create a plan and be prepared for each step along your journey to becoming a skillful and licensed motorcyclist.

Studying and understanding this guide could save you, and your family and friends, unnecessary hardship.

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Motorcycle Data and Statistics Important for New Riders

In 2000, motorcycle fatalities represented only 7.3 percent of total traffic fatalities. In 2008, motorcycle fatalities jumped to 16.3 percent of California's total traffic fatalities.

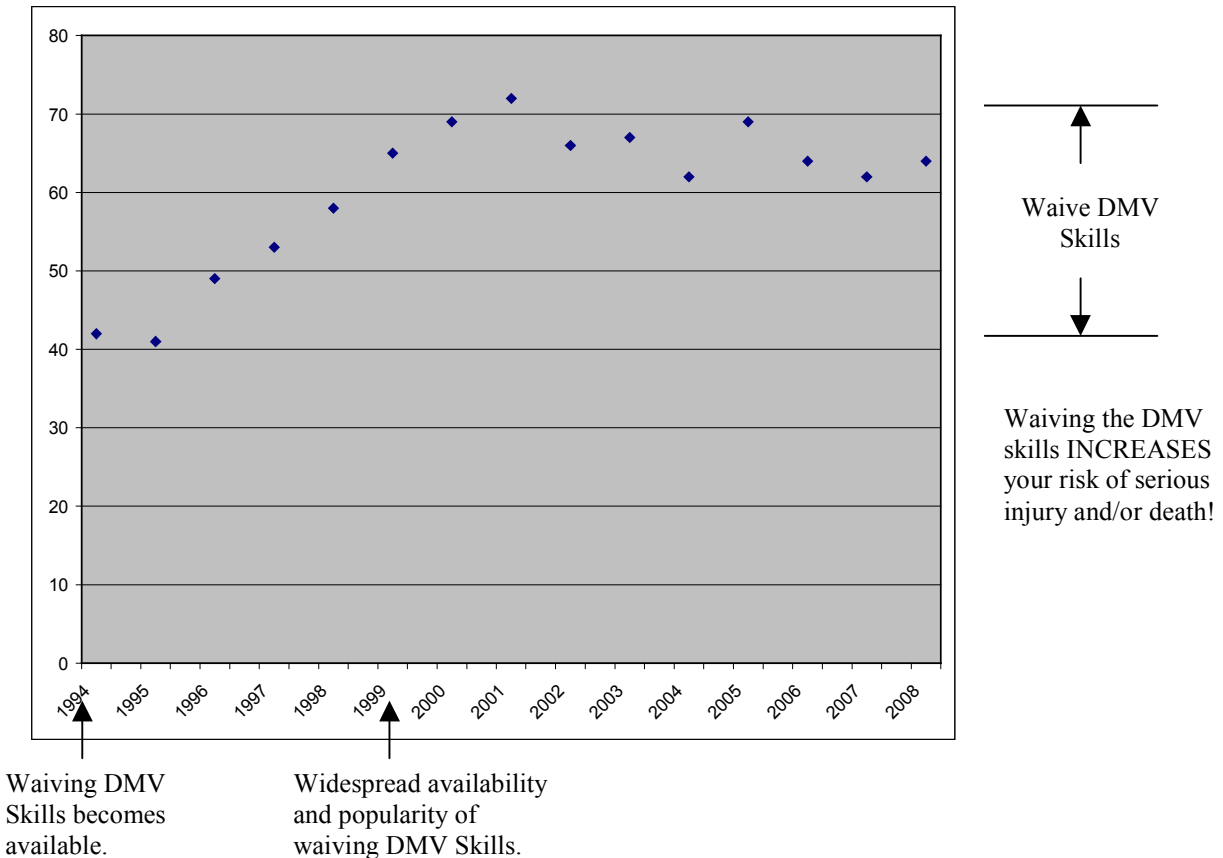
Motorcyclist injuries, as a percentage of total traffic injuries, have also been rising, from 2.6 percent in 2000 to 4.8 percent in 2008. More alarming than the relative percent of motorcycle fatalities and injuries is the increase in the actual number of motorcyclists killed, from 275 in 2000 to 433 in 2006 and 560 in 2008.

The Navy/Marine Corps fatality rate doubled from 2 per month before the widespread implementation of Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) sponsored training on bases to waive the DMV skills to 4 per month after the wide implementation of MIC sponsored training on bases to waive DMV skills.

The percentage of licensed motorcyclists in fatal collisions in California increased from 42% when a licensed rider had to pass a skills test at the DMV to well over 60% with the wide use of the MIC sponsored training to waive the DMV skills test for licensing. Waiving the learners-time and waiving the DMV skills increases the chance of mishap.

We know we can reduce the fatality and morbidity (disabling injury) rates for motorcyclists. New motorcyclists can by completing the following steps. Please join this effort.

CA Motorcycle Fatalities, Percent Licensed by Year



Step 1:

Make an Informed Choice to Pursue Street Riding

Gather information from more than one source about motorcycling. Also, be sure to experience the physical skills a motorcyclist must possess. Use prudence when gaining this physical knowledge.

The **begin2ride** program was specifically designed to provide participants with the physical experience as well as mental techniques to manage their motorcycling journey. Complete Session 1 “Basic Motorcycling Skills” of the **begin2ride** program before making your decision regarding riding motorcycles.

It is OK to choose not to ride. Participating in a sport such as riding motorcycles should be made with the understanding that it is a risky sport and will require time, effort and practice to become proficient.

Step 2:

Develop your skills BEFORE you ride on the street!

Develop **physical skills** to confidently control speed and direction of a motorcycle before your first ride on the street. Develop **mental skills** and strategies to manage risk.

The begin2ride program is specifically designed to be completed BEFORE you ever try to ride a motorcycle on the street. Have the following skills well developed before your first ride **in traffic!**

To begin with, have:

- Complete familiarity with all the controls on the motorcycle.

And be able to:

- Center yourself on the motorcycle and hold on without using your hands.
- Patiently and smoothly control engine power with the throttle.
- Use fingertips to control clutch, ride the clutch and deliver power smoothly.
- Use fingertips to squeeze the front brake lever hard and effectively.
- Have no problem “finding neutral” or putting the motorcycle in neutral.
- Confidently shift to any gear. Understand how to use the synchronizers when shifting.
- Coordinate throttle roll-on and clutch release to get underway smoothly on hills.
- Remain stable while riding over surfaces of different heights.
- Use counter-steering effectively to lean the motorcycle to change direction.

Important: develop and practice **mental skills** to manage risk and eliminate unnecessary risk.

Practice all these skills BEFORE you ride on the street and in traffic.

To manage risk in your learners-time, be sure to master the skills in the **begin2ride** program's session 3, "Combination Skills", before your first ride on the street!

Step 3:

Complete the written test at the DMV for your Learner's Permit/Restricted Motorcycle License

It is inconvenient being a motorcyclist. Come to grips with this fact as soon as you can and your journey will be more enjoyable as well as less risky. We are inconvenienced by weather, mechanical problems, fatigue, poor road surfaces, car drivers not seeing us, having to wear protective gear, having to go to the DMV, etc. etc.

Embrace your DMV experience as a way to test your preparation and planning. At the DMV you must complete some paperwork, get your eyes tested and take one **or more** multiple choice tests. Most likely you will have to re-take a portion of your car written test. Be prepared for this. Be sure you have the DMV Class C car booklet and Motorcycle booklet with you so you may review them while you are waiting in line at the DMV. Note that this is the time to review, not to read the books for first time. Be prepared.

You do not need an appointment for the written test. However, plan to go on a day when the DMV is less busy.

Passing the written test qualifies you for the restricted motorcycle license. This license (learner's permit) allows you to ride any motorcycle on the street. The restrictions are not to ride passengers, or on the interstate, or at night. Follow these restrictions until you have at least completed steps 4 and 5, which includes 500 miles of on-street experience during your learners-time.

Please see Appendix A for DMV locations in San Diego County.

Please see Appendix B for Practice tests.

DMV Preparation Hints:

1. Know the rules for the Child Car Seats questions on the car test. (These questions are on the Class C car test that the DMV may make you complete again.)
2. Don't go to the DMV on Mondays, ever.
3. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are better, although they still may be busy.

4. DMVs are closed most Fridays. Look at the schedule for the DMV you want to use and go on the Friday it happens to be open.

5. Don't let the line at the DMV scare you. Remember you have your booklets with you to review and enjoy. Remember that you set a lot of time aside for this step and it is inconvenient to be a motorcyclist.

6. Know the questions regarding counter-steering to make the motorcycle lean. Note the DMV test question does not use the word counter-steering so as not to tip you off to the correct answer.

7. Know that some of the questions on the DMV test are not perfect, and may not even be accurate. This is why they allow 4 questions to be missed and you can still pass. Try not to worry too much about any particular question.

Step 4:

The First 500 On-street Miles

Are you prepared for your first on-street ride?

AFTER you know how to control speed and direction of a motorcycle,
AFTER you have practiced mental skills to manage risk,
AFTER you have tested your preparation and planning at the DMV
and AFTER you have obtained your learner's permit, you are in a position to prepare for your first street ride.

Be sure your first rides are on appropriately sized motorcycles in a familiar environment. Be prepared for purposeful practice during your learners-time. See Appendix C for information about the Dealer Trade-Up program !

The **continue2ride** program was specifically designed to prepare new riders lower risk and increase the enjoyment of their first 500 miles of on-street riding.

In the **continue2ride** program you will train for three hours on a 250cc motorcycle in the familiar environment of the riding range. Then, when you are ready, you will ride the motorcycle you trained with on the street.

However you choose to complete your first 500 miles, know that it is crucial that you use an appropriate motorcycle in a familiar environment.

It is OK to stay in your learners-time for more than 500 miles! **Take as long as you need to develop your skills.**

Step 5:

Completing the physical skills test for the unrestricted license

Transitioning to the ongoing-riders-time is more than just getting a motorcycle endorsement. We know that the license/endorsement will not make us safe! We know that motorcyclists who have developed both physical and mental skills for motorcycling are at lower risk and have increased enjoyment participating in this exciting sport. The videos for completing the CA DMV on-bike test are available on YouTube.com.

APPENDIX A:

A. DMV locations in San Diego County

Plan to just walk-in for your written test. Don't go on Mondays.

Oceanside DMV:

4005 Plaza Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056-4620

Poway DMV:

13461 Community Road
Poway, CA 92064

Clairemont DMV:

4375 Derrick Drive
San Diego, CA 92117-4944

El Cajon DMV:

1450 Graves Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92021-2953

University Heights DMV:

3960 Normal Street
San Diego, 92103

Chula Vista DMV:

30 North Glover Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910-1040

San Ysidro DMV:

6111 Business Center Court
San Diego, CA 92154-5604

APPENDIX B:

500cc or Less: Motorcycle Trade-Up Program for New Riders

This promotion, endorsed by National Motorcycle Training Institute, encourages new riders to operate an appropriately sized motorcycle during their street riding learners-time. The learners-time is defined as the period starting with a new rider entering the street for the first time and covers, **at a minimum**, the first 6 months and the first 500 miles of on-street riding.

This program will include **new** and **used** motorcycles purchased from the participating dealer. Riders in the learners-time experience greater enjoyment and enhanced learning while lowering risk when using an appropriately sized motorcycle.

After the new rider completes the learners-time and is ready to **trade-up** to a larger motorcycle, the dealer agrees to accept the originally purchased motorcycle as trade-in and **will credit trade-in at the original purchase price**.

The original purchase price does not include taxes and fees. The trade-in motorcycle must be properly maintained. High wear items such as tires, if in need of replacement before dealer can resell trade-in, will be paid for by the owner. The dealer reserves the right to refuse trade-in if the trade-in motorcycle is damaged or has excessive wear, at the dealer's sole discretion.

The current 2010 models include:

<u>Honda</u>	<u>Kawasaki</u>
Rebel 250	BN125
CRF230	Ninja 250
	Ninja EX500
<u>Yamaha</u>	<u>Suzuki</u>
V Star 250	DR200
TW 200	GS 500
XT 250	

All **used** motorcycles of **500cc** sized engine or **less** are also included.

This program is encouraged and endorsed by National Motorcycle Training.

Please see nmcti.org for a list of participating dealers.

APPENDIX C. CA DMV Motorcycle Practice Questions:

Test 1:

1. Not turning off a turn signal:
 - a. Encourages other drivers to pull into your path.
 - b. Keeps other drivers from seeing your brake light.
 - c. Reduces your chances of a crash because other drivers stay clear.
2. Your motorcycle has two brakes. Use both brakes:
 - a. Only for normal stops.
 - b. Only for emergency stops.
 - c. Every time you slow or stop.
3. When you turn:
 - a. Keep you head and eyes straight to maintain balance.
 - b. Look through the turn where you want to go.
 - c. Always lean at the same angle as the motorcycle.
4. Picture question. Rider B should return to the right portion of the lane behind rider A.
5. Which of the following statements is correct?
 - a. Press left, lean right, and go right.
 - b. Press left, lean left, go right.
 - c. Press left, lean left, go left.
6. In slow, tight turns:
 - a. Lean the motorcycle only and keep your body straight.
 - b. Lean your body more than the motorcycle.
 - c. Do not lean.
7. When riding with a passenger:
 - a. Start slowing sooner.
 - b. Use only your front brake to slow.
 - c. Start in the center portion of the lane.
8. Following closely to a vehicle in front of you:
 - a. Protects you in heavy traffic.
 - b. Helps you see hazards in the road.
 - c. Is a factor in crashes caused by motorcyclists.
9. While in a turn, it is best to:
 - a. Maintain steady speed or gradually accelerate.
 - b. Slow down.
 - c. Accelerate and look straight ahead.
10. Alcohol enters the bloodstream and quickly reaches the brain. Which of the following is affected first?
 - a. Speech.
 - b. Balance.
 - c. Judgement.
11. Vehicle/motorcycle crashes are most common:
 - a. At intersections.
 - b. On freeways.
 - c. At night.
12. Make a special point to use your mirrors when:
 - a. Riding through an intersections.
 - b. Following a vehicle.
 - c. Slowing or stopping.
13. Before changing lanes to the left:
 - a. Check you left mirror and look left.
 - b. Check your right mirror and turn your head left.
 - c. Use your horn and speed up.
14. When carrying loads:
 - a. Keep the load low and as far forward as possible.
 - b. Keep the load to the rear of the motorcycle.
 - c. Fastlen the load to the frame on the back of the seat.
15. Most crash-involved riders:
 - a. Over brake the rear tire.
 - b. Under brake the rear tire.
 - c. Were experienced riders.
16. To make good judgements in traffic, you need to first:
 - a. Know how to stop quickly.
 - b. Be able to swerve.
 - c. Search ahead.
17. (Picture not available) In the Picture. Slow down and move away from the vehicle after entering the intersection.
18. Wearing a helmet:
 - a. Increases your chance of a neck injury.
 - b. Reduces your chances of neck and head injuries.
 - c. neither reduces nor increases your chances of a head injury.
19. (Picture not available) In the picture: Pass the car on your left.

20. To reduce speed before turning:
- Close the throttle and apply both brakes.
 - Pull the clutch and use both brakes.
 - Apply the rear brake only.
21. Riding in the center portion of the lane:
- Should be avoided if possible.
 - Keeps other drivers from seeing you.
 - Keeps others from sharing your lane.
22. To operate the throttle:
- Start with your wrist flat.
 - Sit forward with your arms straight.
 - Twist it forward and down for more power.
23. When swerving, it is important to:
- Always brake before swerving.
 - Swerve in the direction of the hazard.
 - Separate braking from swerving.
24. When the front tire goes flat:
- Apply the rear brake and steer to the edge of the road.
 - Steer to the right and apply both brakes.
 - You will not be able to control the motorcycle.
25. You plan to make a right turn after stopping and at an intersection. Usually, it is best to turn from which portion of the lane?
- The left portion.
 - The center portion.
 - The right portion.

Test 2:

- If you must stop quickly while turning and you are unable to straighten the motorcycle first, apply the:
 - Front brake and increase your lean angle.
 - Brakes harder as the lean is reduced.
 - Brakes first and then lean away from the turn.
- When carrying loads:
 - Fasten the load against the frame on the back of the seat.
 - Keep the load low and as far forward as possible.
 - Keep the load behind the rear seat.
- When following a vehicle, you should try to:
 - Ride the the right portion of the lane.
 - Ride where the driver can see you in the rear view mirror.
 - Ride in the left portion of the lane.
- If you have a flat tire while riding, hold the handle grips firmly and:
 - use the brake on the good tire or avoid braking.
 - Gently apply both brakes.
 - Use only the brake that controls the flat tire.
- To ride over an object on the road:
 - Stay seated until you have crossed the object.
 - Rise slightly off the seat.
 - Edge across the object.
- If your throttle sticks:
 - Squeeze the clutch and use the engine cutoff switch.
 - Shift to neutral and apply both brakes.
 - Downshift and apply the brakes.
- With a properly adjusted mirror, you can see:
 - the lane beside you.
 - Everything behind and to the side of you.
 - Part of the lane beside you and behind you.
- To see better when following a vehicle at night:
 - Increase your following distance and use your low beam.
 - Drop far back and use your high beam.
 - Use the headlights of the vehicle ahead.
- When swerving, it is important to:
 - Always brake before swerving.
 - Swerve in the direction the hazard is traveling.
 - Separate braking and swerving.
- (Picture not available) Ride straight across the metal bridge grating.
- The single most important thing you can do to improve your chances of surviving a crash is to:
 - Wear a securely fastened helmet.
 - Be familiar with the motorcycle.
 - Ride in the center portion of the lane.
- Of the following, which one gives the most eye and face protection while riding?
 - A windshield.
 - Goggles.
 - a face shield.
- A group of riders move from a staggered formation into a single file when:
 - Traffic is heavy.
 - Turning corners.
 - Riding at night.

14. On a paved two-lane road, sand and gravel are most likely to collect:
- Near the center of the road.
 - Near the sides of the road.
 - In the left wheel track.
15. To cross the tracks that run parallel to your course:
- Edge gradually across.
 - Move away, then turn and cross at an angle of at least 45°.
 - Move into the opposite lane to cross at 90°.
16. (Picture not available.) Slow and increase space.
17. To predict how a hazard may affect you, it's important to:
- Watch for brake lights or turn signals.
 - Adjust speed to get around the hazard.
 - Know the speed, distance, and direction the hazard is moving.
18. (Picture not available.)
19. You are being pursued by a police vehicle with its lights and siren activated. You have deliberately ignored the officer's warning to stop and have sped away. During the pursuit a person is killed. You are subject to:
- A fine of not less than \$10,000.
 - Imprisonment in a state prison for six years.
 - Being jailed in the county jail for not more than one year.
20. (Picture not available.) Turn your head to the left.
21. On a wet road, it will usually be most slippery:
- In the left wheel track.
 - On loose gravel.
 - In the center portion of the lane.
22. In a normal turn, lean your:
- Body more than your motorcycle.
 - Motorcycle more than your body.
 - Motorcycle and you body at the same lean angle.
23. The ability to think clearly and ride safely is affected by as little as:
- 6 drinks.
 - 3 drinks.
 - 1 drink.

24. When carrying a passenger:
- Your motorcycle will react the same.
 - It takes longer to brake and accelerate.
 - Let some air out of the tires for better traction.

25. When you are being followed too closely, it is usually best to:
- Move closer to the vehicle ahead.
 - Move to the right portion of the lane.
 - Drop back farther from the vehicle ahead.

Test 3:

- What are the requirements for wearing a helmet?
 - Passengers only are required to wear helmets.
 - All motorcycle riders and passengers are required to wear helmets at all times.
 - Helmets are not required while driving on city streets.
- Grabbing the front brake or jamming down on the rear brake:
 - Can cause the brakes to lock.
 - Is the best way to stop in an emergency.
 - Is the best way to slow down when the streets are wet.
- Passengers on motorcycles should:
 - Put their feet on the ground when the motorcycle is stopped.
 - Not ride without a back rest.
 - Should sit as far forward as possible without crowding you.
- When riding with a group of motorcyclists, a staggered formation:
 - Is recommended at all times.
 - Should not be used when entering or exiting a highway.
 - Should be used when riding on curves.
- Eye protection:
 - Is not needed if your motorcycle is equipped with a windshield.
 - Is only needed when riding in bad weather.
 - Should give a clear view to either side.
- A primary cause of single vehicle motorcycle accidents is:
 - Motorcyclists' tendency to drive too fast for weather conditions.
 - Motorcyclists running wide in a curve or turn and colliding with the roadway or a fixed object.
 - Motorcyclists running off the road while trying to avoid a collision with another vehicle.

7. The best lane position for a motorcycle:
- Is in the left part of the lane, next to the center line.
 - Is in the right part of the lane, next to the curb.
 - Can vary depending on road and/or traffic conditions.
8. When riding at night you should:
- Move closer to the vehicle in front of you to use its lights to see farther down the road.
 - Keep driving at your normal speed because slowing down would increase the chance of being struck from behind.
 - Reduce your speed because it is harder to see something lying in the road.
9. You should operate the engine cut-off switch and pull in the clutch when:
- The throttle is stuck and you can't free it.
 - You start to lose control in a curve.
 - The motorcycle starts to wobble.
10. To operate a moped you must have at least a _____ license.
- Class M1
 - Class M2
 - Class C
11. Upshifting or downshifting in a curve:
- Should only be done if it can be done smoothly.
 - Is better than shifting before the curve.
 - Is the best way to control your speed.
12. To avoid confusing other drivers you should:
- Increase the following distance between your motorcycle and the vehicle in front of you if you are being tailgated.
 - Make sure your turn signal turns off after you finish a turn.
 - Use your horn only in emergency situations.
13. _____ is a major factor in accidents caused by motorcycles.
- Following too closely
 - Lane sharing
 - Not being seen by other drivers
14. If your motorcycle starts to wander back and forth while riding over metal bridge gratings you should:
- Downshift immediately to a lower gear to improve traction.
 - Proceed in a zig-zag pattern until you cross the bridge.
 - Relax, stay on course and ride straight across.
15. If you must carry a load it should be:
- Either over or in front of the rear axle.
 - Carried on the gas tank in front of the driver.
 - Piled up against a sissy bar or frame on the back of the seat.
16. Grabbing the front brake or jamming down on the rear brake:
- Can cause the brakes to lock.
 - Is the best way to stop in an emergency.
 - Is the best way to slow down when the streets are wet.
17. What is the best way to stay out of trouble while riding a motorcycle?
- To see it coming by looking well ahead.
 - By avoiding high density traffic areas.
 - By increasing the following distance between your motorcycle and the vehicle in front of you.
18. A motorcycle rider has an advantage over an automobile driver when passing parked vehicles because:
- A motorcycle can accelerate faster than a car.
 - A motorcycle rider can avoid the problems of opening doors and people stepping out from between vehicles by driving in the left part of the lane.
 - Motorcycles have a shorter stopping distance.
19. Brightly colored, reflective helmets and clothing:
- Should only be worn while riding at night.
 - Can make motorcycle riders easier to see.
 - Do not increase a motorcycle rider's safety.
20. To execute a turn safely a motorcycle rider should always:
- Lean the motorcycle in the direction of the curve or turn
 - Slow down in the turn.
 - Turn using the handle bars only.