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Police motorcycle training

Good afternoon everyone!

I, along with my friends from Idaho, witnessed a police officer nearly killing a motorcyclist on Tuesday night, while trying to stop him for a moving violation.

Does anyone have an existing training program for POLICE that they are willing to share, or know where I can find materials geared specifically towards police on how to safely stop a motorcyclist and how to effectively enforce existing motorcycle laws with riders?

Any assistance, direction or guidance will be greatly appreciated!!!

Thank you!

VERMONT

NHTSA has a course for police officers titled Motorcycle Safety and Enforcement Training. It discusses motorcycle laws, equipment requirements and officer & motorcyclist safety.

~Paul Graves

VIRGINIA

Nothing that I know of in VA

~Bruce Biondo

NORTH CAROLINA

Hi Despina,

We have a very good source in North Carolina. Mark Brown was a RiderCoach for several years and has a school wherein he teaches a Motor Officer course. He retired from the NCHP after many years of service. He was instrumental with starting the "BikeSafe" program. You could call him to see if he has any insight to share. His website is <http://www.motomark1.com/index.shtml>

I have known Mark for several years and consider him a friend and a very good teacher.

~Bob Wagner

MARYLAND

Despina,

To be honest, I find your opening sentence a little hard to swallow. What kind of moving violation? Do have any more details on the circumstances? There may be something suspect here.

I talked with a good friend of mine who runs the Maryland State Police Motorcycle Unit. He indicated that Troopers are taught various tactics depending on the situation. He told me a couple, but I cannot relate them without breaking confidence with the MSP. I'd like to keep them as friends.

Was it a normal traffic stop or the end of a pursuit? Did the tag come back as a stolen motorcycle?

Whenever I get pulled over as soon as I see the lights come on I am off to the side of the road, side stand down and engine off with both hands on the bars. When Trooper/Officer Friendly comes I smile and ask, "How can I help you officer?"

Regards.

~Phil Sause

RHODE ISLAND

Phil,

We were driving on Rt 1 in Narragansett, RI (2 lanes in each direction divided by a median) in the low speed lane doing <50 mph. The motorcycle rider was in the left lane, behind a car, doing about 60. Out of nowhere came a police officer and he literally rode up to the Motorcyclists bumper and we all thought they were going to collide. I've never seen anything like it.

This prompted the question I sent to SMSA list serve - is there a training program we can bring to our officers in RI.

Perhaps we encountered a rogue officer, but this was a scary encounter and he/she needs a refresher course and I would like to provide it.

~Despina Metakos

MARYLAND

Despina,

One annoying tactic that all police departments have related to traffic stops and I have never been able to get them to explain it to me is the practice of pulling up directly behind a vehicle like you describe. I guess they want you to know they're there. Again, you do not know what happened before you observed this that could have justified the officers actions.

The couple of times I have been pulled over the police cruisers have maintained a safe distance. Otherwise, it is my experience that law enforcement is mostly very courteous to motorcyclists. Like that time early one April morning while I was headed south on DE1. But that's another

story...
Regards.

~Phil Sause

NORTH CAROLINA

Phil,
Makes me wonder how many times you have been pulled over... You seem to have extensive personal experience! ;)

~Bob Wagner

OREGON

They may have been trying to read the motorcycle plate. You have to get right up on it to be able to read it.

~ Michele O' Leary

CALIFORNIA

Just a couple of pointers for any riders out there who might get stopped for a traffic violation:

1. Slow, signal and move right. If on the freeway, pull off the next exit and/or pull far off the roadway in a safe well lit location. (Listen carefully for any directions given via PA)
2. STAY ON YOUR BIKE.
3. Leave your side stand up and support the weight of the bike with your feet.
4. Turn off your ignition.
5. Remove your helmet if/ when requested. (Helps with identification, but some Officers see the helmet and a potential weapon)

Expect that an Officer who intends to stop a motorcycle 'may' get very close. There are reasons for this.

~Sergeant Mark Pope

MARYLAND

Sgt Pope,
Always good to hear from the CHiP's. How are Ponch and John? I guess they're on 3-wheels now.
I read in AM about why your guidelines for Lane Sharing had to be pulled from your website. I can see the guys point, but really?
Good advice. Here in Maryland we are advised to put the bike over on the side stand. Yup leave the lid on and keep your hands on the bars.
I know there are reasons police ride up on a rider's/driver bumper. Never agreed with them, but I realize this is the practice so I deal with it.
Now if lights and sirens are not flashing and wailing and I am doing the speed limit, I will not move over. I figure this will get me stopped one day but until then... Sometimes when I do move over I think, oh look, a pace car.

Looking forward to seeing a lot of you here in The Free State next month.
Best regards.

~Philip Sause

MICHIGAN

Although I have not heard of or encountered this situation, I am currently working on a Law Enforcement Action Kit (LEAK) to send out to all law enforcement agencies in Michigan to help point out the contributing factors that are injuring and killing our motorcyclists and encouraging law enforcement to be more vigilant in their enforcement of some of the issues. Point being, you might look at some sort of a kit to send to law enforcement agencies. Ours is going to include a roll call video and a tip card. My experience has also been that each law enforcement agency may have different enforcement and pursuit policies. I have talked to some who absolutely will not "chase" and don't write a no endorsement citation. But others will chase and will even tow a MC if the operator is unendorsed. All depends on the agency, at least here.

Hope this helps some.

~Chad Teachout