

DID YOU KNOW -

In 2006 Motorcycles account for over 4,800 fatalities and 88,000 injuries in the United States. These numbers will grow as gas and oil prices continue to climb and alternative methods of transportation are needed.

Per miles traveled, motorcyclists are 16 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash and about 4 times as likely to be injured.

In 2007 there were 2,601 motorcycle crashes which resulted in 126 motorcycle operator deaths and 2,284 occupant injuries in the Commonwealth.

In Virginia there were 266 moped crashes which resulted in 8 deaths and 229 rider injuries in 2007.

Slightly over 50% of moped and motor vehicle crashes were due to moped driver error.

Injuries connected with the use of popular motorized scooters are on the rise, prompting the Consumer Product safety Commission to issue a consumer advisory on the dangers of such scooters.

The majority of those injuries are riders under 15 years of age. The most frequent injuries are fractures to arms & legs, with further injuries to the face and hands. Because of their relatively small size, scooters and "pocket bikes" are hard to see by drivers of motor vehicles especially in traffic.

Motor Scooters, Bikes & Mopeds are

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FAQ's

Are electric-powered motorcycles, scooters or "pocket bikes" legal to operate on the highways?

No- Under Virginia law, electric-powered scooters are designated as full size motorcycles. To operate one, you need a driver's license, insurance, and a vehicle safety inspection – just as you would for a motorcycle. You may operate them on private property with the permission of the property owner.

Can my thirteen year old operate a motorized scooter on the sidewalk?

No- The child may only operate the scooter on private property with the property owner's permission.

Is there a law requiring me to drive in the right lane while on my scooter?

Yes- Virginia law requires that whenever operating a moped, scooter, electric-powered bicycle, or an electric-powered assistive mobility device you must travel in the right lane while operating the vehicle on the highway.

What will happen if I am stopped by a Police Officer and I am not the proper age (16) or don't have any safety equipment or identification?

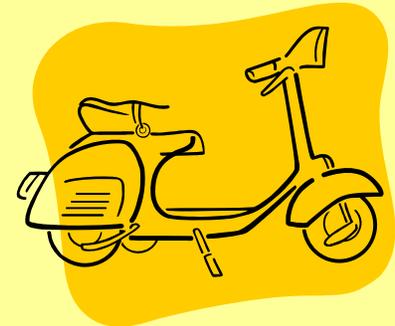
The officer may cite you for a traffic infraction and impound the motor-bike or scooter. Parents can obtain ID cards for their children under 15 years of age at any DMV customer service center.

This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-246-7562. TTY 703-204-2264. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.

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**A
Citizens Guide to
Safe and Legal
Motorcycle,
Moped & Scooter
Operation**

MOPEDS

Mopeds are defined as every vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground that has (1.) a seat that is no less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the ground and (2.) a gasoline, or hybrid motor that displaces less than 50 cubic centimeters.

- While operating upon a public street or highway the driver **must** obey all traffic laws.
- While operating a moped on the highway the operator is required to ride as close as practical to the right curb/edge of the roadway.
- All persons riding on a moped **are required** to wear protective helmet and safety glasses of a type approved by Superintendent of State Police.
- No Moped shall be driven on any highway or public vehicular area faster than **35mph or by any person under 16 years of age.**
- **No moped shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number of persons which were designed or equipped.**
- When operating between the hours of sunset and sunrise, it must be equipped with a headlight and a red rear reflector visible at night.
- Anyone operating a moped faster than 35mph is considered to be operating a motorcycle, which subjects the operator to the same traffic laws that govern motorcycles.
- **All operators are required to carry some form of identification with them at all times which includes their name, address, and date of birth.**

MOTORCYCLES

Every motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and capable of traveling at speeds in excess of 35 mph. This term/definition does not include and “electric personal assistive mobility device,” “electric power-assisted bicycle,” “farm tractor,” “golf cart,” “moped,” “motorized skateboard or scooter,” “utility vehicle,” or “wheelchair conveyance” which is defined in Section 46.2-100 Code of Virginia.



Assisted Mobility Device



Motorized Skateboard



Motorized Bike



Electric Powered Bicycle

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

These vehicles are described as a two-wheeled device, powered by a gas motor, which has handlebars and is designed to be stood upon.

MOTORIZED BIKES

These are mini-motorcycles or “pocket bikes” are a gasoline “motor-driven cycle” pursuant to Virginia State Code. Motorized bikes are illegal on highways, sidewalks, bikeways and on hiking or recreational trails. These vehicles can only be operated on private property with the property owner’s permission.

ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES

A self-balancing, two non-tandem wheeled device that is designed to transport only one person and powered by an electric motor that limits the device’s maximum speed to 15mph or less. This vehicle is considered a vehicle while operated on a highway.

ELECTRIC POWERED BICYCLES

A vehicle that travels on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground and equipped with (1.) pedals that allow propulsion by human power and (2.) an electric motor with an input of no more than 1,000 watts that reduces the pedal effort required of the operator. This vehicle is considered a vehicle when operated on a highway and must obey all traffic laws.