

ABATE OF PA.-OPERATION SAVE A LIFE

My name is _____ and I belong to an organization called ABATE OF PA. It stands for Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education founded in 1977. We are not a motorcycle gang or club, we are a grass roots organization. Our chapter is _____

Our mission is to protect the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change, charitable works and education. Our program today is call Operation Save A Life. The motto for OSAL is “Look Twice-Save A Life”. This program is given to students and other 4 wheeled drivers to increase awareness of motorcycles on the road and prevent accidents. In other words, how to share the road with all vehicles. Motorcycles, scooters and bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles. We are not here to teach you how to operate a motorcycle. But to be aware of motorcycles on the roads.

What do you know to be the physical differences between a motorcycle and other motor vehicles? (Lights, smaller, no roof, air bags, seatbelts headlights.) {talk about these differences}

Let’s go outside and look at the motorcycles. (while outside show them the lights, brake, turn, head, tail.) (also, good opportunity to demonstrate balance, passenger movements, and hand signals.)

1. How many of you ride a dirt bike, 4 wheelers?
2. How many have family or friends who ride a motorcycle?
3. How many have been a passenger on a motorcycle?
4. Is anyone interested in learning how to ride a motorcycle?

People from all walks of life ride motorcycle: Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Doctors, Lawyers, Judges, Ministers, so many people from all walks of life.

(Here is where you talk about PAMSP, it's benefits and costs)

Through the efforts of ABATE in Harrisburg, those from the age of 16 are now allowed to obtain a motorcycle license. Our handout tells you how to proceed. You must have a motorcycle permit, which you apply for at the local DMV, for at least 6 months and have 65 hours of supervised riding. Supervised riding is someone riding beside or behind or in front of you. You MUST then take the course. Upon completion you will be a licensed Class M operator.

Through our efforts and that of Pen Dot and Live Free Ride Alive this program is free to all residents of PA. We lobbied to pay \$5.00 more on our registration to fund this program. The course consists of in-class instructions and hands on training on a motorcycle. You must wear Proper gear eyewear, Long sleeves, Long pants, over the ankle boots and full fingered gloves.

Statistics show that over half of the accidents involving motorcyclists and motorists result in serious injury or death to the motorcyclist and that the automobile driver was at fault. Two thirds of these accidents occur at intersections where the motorist violated the motorcyclists right of way. If you are involved where serious injury or death occurs and you are at fault, you could face incarceration, fines, increase in your insurance rates, loss of license and knowing that you were responsible for the injury or death of another human being. One thing for certain, if that happens, the incident will be the last

thing you think about before you go to sleep every night, and the first thing you think of when you awake in the morning.

Now let's talk about things causes for Motorcycle only accidents.

1. Inexperience*
2. Lack of training*
3. No License*
4. Showing Off*.
5. Speed*
- 6 Fatigue*.

Most people think because motorcycles are small and can be easily maneuvered that they can get out of any dangerous situation the may encounter. This is not what always happens. We face the same hazards on the same roads as other vehicles. The automobile driver may simply straddle over them. A motorcyclist must avoid them or stop. Let's talk about hazards that are inherent to motorcycles and not so much other vehicles. (ask students why these are more dangerous to us?)

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|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Leaves/ Grass Clippings | 5. Oil Leaks |
| 2. Gravel/ Loose Stones | 6. Passenger Movements |
| 3. Uneven roads/ potholes | 7. Objects kicked up by vehicles |
| 4. Animals-Dead or Alive
(Railroad tracks) | 8. Objects falling from vehicles |

Now we are going to watch our video. After that we will discuss things we see in the video. Now let's do the eye test in you packet of information we handed out. Take the time to try it. (give them a few minutes.). A motorcycle can hide behind a 2" sign post, tree, bush, mailbox etc. Remember motorcycles are small compared to any other vehicles. Our lights, turn signals are harder to see. Our lights must be on whenever the motor is started day or night, thus when we hit the brakes they are harder to detect. We do not always use our brakes to slow down, we will downshift the transmission. We are

entitled to use the entire lane of travel from the center line to the fog line. If you see us moving to the center of the road it is so that you can see us better, not to distract you or to get you to move over.

Now let's talk about things that may cause accidents between motorcycles and other motor vehicles.

1. Tailgating. What is the safe following distance according the PA driver's manual-2-4 seconds? What do you think is a safe distance to follow a motorcycle? We would like to see 6-8 seconds. Why? You may be driving along not thinking about things like road hazards. If you come up behind a motorcycle and he/she hits stones or an obstacle in the roadway and has to stop quickly or slow down, or even worse lay the bike down, you could possibly run over the operator. Leave sufficient distance between all vehicles, but give us a little more space. Please do not tailgate.
2. Large vehicles. Trucks. If you are around trucks, give them respect. On four lane highways either back away from them or pass them. Do not ride beside them. Motorcycles are easily hidden around large vehicles. Trucks have more blind spots than other vehicles.
3. Strong winds. Gusty winds can blow us from one lane of traffic to another.
4. Bad weather. If we get caught in bad weather, we will slow down a lot more than you will. We do not have windshield wipers. Those same lights that are hard to see now become even harder to see because of the rain drops.
5. Distractions. Cell phones, talking to passengers, adjusting the radio, eating, watching scenery etc. Talk about the phone app. (Every phone manufacturer has an app. To put in your phone to let loved ones know that you are driving) Use this opportunity to

explain Daniels Law. Fines etc. Fines and prison terms for distracted driving have increased significantly since enactment of this law. If you are convicted of texting while driving, you could face up to 5 years in prison and very steep fines.

6. Blind spots. Today's vehicles have many more blind spots than older vehicles. Move your head not just your eyes. Make sure of your surroundings. (Here is a good spot to talk about SEE) See, search, scan look ahead. Evaluate- what must I do to avoid the problem. Execute- Whatever you decide to do, do it.
7. Stay in your lane. Whether it is a two lane or a four lane, stay in your lane. Make sure it is safe to change lanes.
8. Left Turns - Left turns cause the majority of the accidents between motorcycles and motor vehicles. Extreme care is needed when making any turn, but even more so when making left hand turns.

Now our team will demonstrate hand signals we use not only when group riding, but also when we ride alone. You will notice we only use our left hand for these. Does anyone know why? We will also be showing you some signals we use in group riding. These will make it easier for you to understand what our intentions are. Be aware not all turn signals on bikes are self-canceling, keep a safe distance, don't assume the rider is going to turn.

As the video said "Make good decisions". Two things that will affect all we talked about today. Drugs and Alcohol. Impairment starts with the first drink. 2 wheel or four these are not good choices. Unlike videos, there is no reset button in real life. You can't change what is going to happen once it starts. Remember a car has seat belts, airbags and a steel cage to protect you. On a motorcycle, it's the

driver that hits. A small dent for an automobile, can be something much worse for the motorcyclists.

So, if you only take one thing away from this class, what is it? “Look Twice Save A Life.”

Game- time available. You do not have to use the quiz anymore if you choose not to. Develop some kind of game to have fun with the students.

Time, permitting you can talk about charitable works you have in your chapter.

If you see an accident with the rider wearing a helmet DO NOT REMOVE IT. That could cause a more severe injury. Let the EMT’s take care of it.

Question and answer time. Be prepared to answer many question on many topics. Be factual with your answers. They also like to hear about your riding experiences.