

## Motorcycles

**What is the biggest traffic issue North Las Vegas Traffic Officers are facing?** The biggest issues change from time to time. Currently, we are experiencing issues with motorcycle helmets. We find riders wearing fake or novelty helmets which are unsafe, as well as illegal. The only authorized helmets are Department of Transportation (DOT) approved. Not wearing a proper helmet can result in the rider being cited for a primary violation. (See NRS 486.231)

**What defines an approved helmet?** Approved helmets will have a visible DOT sticker both on the outside and inside of the helmet. These helmets have to meet minimum performance requirements established under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218, as set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). (See §28.05.011 and 13AAC 04.350(a), as well as NRS 486.231 & 486.241)

**What makes a motorcycle legal?** If the motorcycle is over 50cc a Class M (motorcycle) driver license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and DOT approved motorcycle helmet is required. (See 486.041 & 486.370)

**Is there a minimum age limit for riding a motorcycle as a passenger?** No. However, one must be able to reach the factory foot pegs or risk getting pulled over. (See NRS 486.181)

**What precautions should drivers take with motorcycles?** Pay more attention. We are seeing more motorcycle fatalities in our state. Drivers should be aware of their surroundings before performing lane changes or left hand turns.