



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of STATE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ADMINISTRATORS

# Spotlight

Summer 2020

*The views and opinions of the articles and authors in the SMSA Spotlight do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the SMSA or their members. The articles are intended to provide a wide range of views on motorcycle safety. Any questions regarding articles should be addressed directly to the author(s).*

## Happy and Healthy Summer

SMSA wishes all of our members a happy Summer. The weather is warm again and most of us have returned to some level of training. In these challenging times, we wish everyone a safe and healthy Summer.

## In This Issue

- 2020 SMSA Summit Cancelled .....2
- 2020 SMSA Annual Members’ Business Meeting .....2
- Save the Date: 2021 SMSA National Training Summit!.....2
- SMSA Name Change .....2
- SMSA Executive Committee Update.....3
- SMSA Communications and Membership Committee Update .....3
- SMSA Motorcycle Safety Programs Committee Update .....3
- SMSA Policy and Research Committee Update .....3
- SMSA Committee Openings.....3
- SMSA Elections .....3
- Oklahoma Department of Public Safety COVID-19 Motorcycle Examination Protocol .....4
- CDOT Hosts Colorado Motorcyclist Memorial Day ....5
- NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing .....6
- Get Your Company’s Message Heard.....7
- Step into the Spotlight.....7

## About SMSA

SMSA, established in 1984, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides leadership for state administered motorcycle safety programs. Our mission is to assist motorcycle safety programs, through collaboration and partnerships, to implement comprehensive, data-driven motorcycle safety programs and countermeasures to achieve a significant reduction in motorcycle operator traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries.

## SMSA Listserv

Please take advantage of the SMSA Listserv hosted by Oregon State University. The SMSA Listserv is an easy and efficient way to contact your fellow SMSA members with questions relating to Motorcycle Safety and Rider Education. To sign up, visit the SMSA website Members Only section and choose the tab for Listserv. Summaries from past postings are also listed under the Listserv tab.



## Follow SMSA

Like SMSA on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/smsa1984](http://www.facebook.com/smsa1984)



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## Become a Member

Not a member? Become an SMSA individual, state or supporting [member](#) to support our organization and motorcycle safety efforts. Visit [www.smsa.org](http://www.smsa.org) for more information.

## 2020 SMSA Summit Cancelled

During these unprecedented times, SMSA has continued to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the interest of the health and safety of our members and Summit attendees, the SMSA has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 National Training Summit in Nashua, New Hampshire.

**The 2020 Annual Members' Business Meeting will be held virtually. Please see the following section for more details.**

We would like to extend our appreciation to all of those who were scheduled to present during the 2020 Summit. These presentations will be offered next year during the 2021 SMSA National Training Summit in Boise, Idaho October 13-16, 2021. We hope to see you in Boise.

## 2020 SMSA Annual Members' Business Meeting

The SMSA WILL conduct the 2020 Annual Members' Business Meeting virtually on September 16, 2020 from 1:30 – 4:30 pm EDT. Highlights of the virtual business meeting include:

- Updates on SMSA activities, including the possibility of an SMSA name change (details covered in the adjacent column),
- Updates on Federal initiatives,
- Administrators' and Members' Roundtable Discussions,
- Highlights of the SMSA 2021 National Training Summit – Boise, Idaho, and
- Introduction of the 2020-2021 SMSA Executive Committee.

Additional information and a detailed agenda will follow. Please stay tuned!

## Save the Date: 2021 SMSA National Training Summit!

The 2021 SMSA National Training Summit will be held October 13-16, 2021 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Mark your calendar now!



## SMSA Name Change

It has been proposed that the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) should change its name, but maintain the logo and the acronym SMSA. The proposed new name could be the State Motorcycle Safety Association.

The original name adopted in 1984 was associated with individuals involved primarily with rider training. Over the years additional organizations and individuals involved in a variety of motorcycle safety activities became affiliated with the SMSA. The new name would make the Association more inclusive for organizations, State Agencies, and individuals to share in and support all motorcycle safety efforts, projects, and activities.

In 2019, several meetings with Association members were conducted to discuss a name change. It was unanimously decided a name change was appropriate, but the acronym and logo SMSA should remain. It was suggested the new name should be the State Motorcycle Safety Association. This new name would allow the association the flexibility to expand its purpose and possibly attract new members.

With this purpose in mind, the SMSA Executive Committee would like to recommend the name be changed to the *State Motorcycle Safety Association (SMSA)*.

The possibility of the name change will be discussed during the virtual Annual Members' Business Meeting in September.



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## SMSA Executive Committee Update



Several webinars have been conducted and communications related to COVID-19 have been shared. The Executive Committee continues to review Articles IV, V and VI of the bylaws for possible revisions; and are developing several new Position Statements for the Association.

They are working in collaboration with the SMSA Policy and Research Committee on the bylaws and position statements. The current [Bylaws](#), supporting [Policies and Procedures](#), and [Position Statements](#) can all be found on the SMSA website at [www.smsa.org](http://www.smsa.org).

## SMSA Communications and Membership Committee Update

The SMSA Communications and Membership Committee is currently reviewing the process for submitting SMSA Award nominations. The committee is working to simplify the process and develop a plan for marketing nominations by SMSA members. More information on these awards can be found at: <http://www.smsa.org/AwardNominations.html>.

The committee assisted the Summit Host Committee with planning for the 2020 National Training Summit. Additional activities include: developing and distributing the Spotlight and identifying the possibility for member discounts with various national motorcycle related vendors.

## SMSA Motorcycle Safety Programs Committee Update



The SMSA Motorcycle Safety Programs Committee is currently developing a draft of comprehensive model entry level rider training standards.

This model will include sections for program administration, program oversight, instructor qualifications, coordination with motorcycle licensing, curriculum content, classroom and range delivery, online delivery, and outcome standards. The first draft will be completed by the end of this year with an anticipated release in 2021.

## SMSA Policy and Research Committee Update

The SMSA Policy and Research Committee is assisting the Executive Committee with reviewing Articles IV, V and VI of the Bylaws for possible revisions, developing several new Policy Positions for the Association and defining a process for the regular review of current position statements.

## SMSA Committee Openings

SMSA is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies for the Communications and Membership Committee and the Motorcycle Safety Programs Committee. The committees are a great way to get involved in your association, support motorcycle safety, and network with other professionals. The commitment is generally one conference call per month and some review of activities.

If you are interested in participating in an SMSA committee, please contact the SMSA Office at [office@smsa.org](mailto:office@smsa.org) or (724) 801-8075.

## SMSA Elections

Nominations have been received for the 5 positions on the Executive Committee for 2020-2022: Chairperson, 3 Regional Representatives and 1 Individual Member Representative. Voting for these positions will be held in early July. Please watch your emails and be sure to vote. Every vote counts.

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# Oklahoma Department of Public Safety COVID-19 Motorcycle Examination Protocol

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In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent public health changes, we have all had to make adjustments to our normal routines and professional protocols. For the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (DPS), there have been many changes. In particular, testing for driver's licenses has dramatically changed, for the safety of both the public and our Driver License Examiners.

The testing for motorcycle licensing in the State of Oklahoma is done through the DPS by completing the vision, written and skills testing, or by successfully completing a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Course and passing the vision testing.

The State of Oklahoma has implemented strict guidelines, in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to keep our public safe. The skills testing required through the DPS is conducted on-street, following the Rider and giving instruction for the drive, if the individual is 18 or older. Under the age of 18, drivers are required to complete a motorcycle safety Basic Rider Course (BRC).

When conducting a skills test for a motorcycle license, the department requires that the examiners take full precautions. This requires the examiners and riders to wear masks within a 6-foot contact area of each other, and gloves are worn by the examiner. The equipment for testing includes hand-held, two-way radios. The rider can also use earbuds that they provide, to connect with the DPS radio for better communication. The other option is for the rider to use a blue-tooth device in their helmet, and the blue-tooth device can be synced to a DPS cell phone through the State vehicle to provide instruction to the rider. The use of the state-issued radios adheres to sanitation guidelines set forth by the CDC, and these are sanitized before and after each drive, ensuring safety for all parties. During the skills testing, the examiner ensures that CDC mandated social distancing is maintained. Insurance documents and other required paperwork are kept in hand by the rider or the examiner, depending on the documentation, and

the information is viewed, verified and recorded accordingly.

The vehicle inspection is done as it always has been, with no physical interaction required. The rider locates and reads off the motorcycle Vehicle Identification Number (VIN#) to the examiner, for verification. The skills testing is then conducted in accordance with the Oklahoma DPS and Oklahoma legal requirements. The examiner verbally gives the route information to the rider before conducting the testing and administers the skills test.

After the test is completed, the examiner will relate the evaluation information to the rider and return any required paperwork, according to the results of the testing. This documentation is then taken to an Oklahoma Tag Agency to be processed for licensing.

Once the examination process is completed, all equipment is sanitized for the next testing procedure.

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# CDOT Hosts Colorado Motorcyclist Memorial Day

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Each year after Colorado's snowy winters, the warm summer days entice motorcycle riders to the roadways. However, taking to the roads has become more dangerous for motorcyclists in recent years. In 2018, 103 motorcycle riders lost their lives in Colorado. So far this year, 65 motorcyclists have been killed, compared to 60 at this time last year.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado State Patrol (CSP), victims and motorcycle riders gathered at CDOT headquarters in Denver to remember the 103 motorcyclists killed in 2018 and to raise awareness about motorcycle safety. A display of 103 motorcycle helmets provided a visual representation of the lives lost.

Governor Jared Polis issued a proclamation designating August 12, 2019, as Colorado Motorcyclist Memorial Day.



"Today we speak for the ones who can't be with us," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "If you're in a car or on a motorcycle, we want everyone traveling on Colorado's roads to be watchful and safe."

The event was attended by victims or their families who shared stories about their crashes firsthand. Christi Vigil lost her father in a motorcycle crash, and Christina Hope was seriously injured following a motorcycle crash in 2017. Christina's story can be heard [here](#).

"Colorado State Patrol witnesses motorcycle crashes that could be prevented on our roads every day," said Col. Matthew Packard, CSP chief. "With the increasing number of distractions on our roadways, we need each person being safe and looking twice for motorcycles."

From 2012 to 2018, motorcyclist fatalities have increased 30%. In 2018, motorcyclist fatalities were nearly 16% of all traffic fatalities in Colorado. Motorcycle fatalities reached a peak of 125 deaths in 2016.

## Number of Motorcyclist Fatalities in Colorado from 2012-2018



With motorcycle rider fatalities up 8% compared to this same time last year, CDOT urges drivers to be more aware of motorcycles. **They suggest drivers:**

### Check blind spots.

Since motorcycles are much smaller than cars, it is easy for them to get lost in blind spots. Before making any lane changes, thoroughly check all blind spots and use traffic signals.

### Look twice.

When making lane changes, turns, merging and other traffic changes, check twice to save a life.

### Use extra caution when turning left.

Motorcycles are smaller which makes it hard for drivers to determine their speed accurately. When making left turns, look carefully for motorcyclists as the eye is not trained to detect them, then take the time to more accurately gauge their speed before entering the intersection.

### Never follow motorcyclists too closely.

Motorcycles and their riders can slow down quicker than cars. Giving riders more space than a car ensures that drivers have enough time to slow or stop.

### Eliminate distractions while driving.

Being mindful and aware of driving situations, changes on the roadways and other unexpected incidents increase the safety for drivers and motorcyclists.

CDOT will continue to take to social media to remind motorists of these tips. CDOT will also be posting safety messages on its digital message boards over Colorado's roadways. Last year, CDOT highlighted how much can get lost in a blind spot, including an entire jet, small apartment and more. That campaign and additional info can be viewed [here](#).

This year's campaign is part of CDOT's *Whole System – Whole Safety* campaign which aims to reduce fatalities and injuries and "Bring everyone home safely."

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## NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offers a website:

[www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/) with materials for numerous traffic safety campaigns including motorcycles, drunk driving, vehicle safety, distracted driving, drowsy driving and more.

These marketing tools include images, videos, animations, posters, fact sheets, social media messages and images and offer a way to get involved through traditional media and online media. Each month a different campaign is highlighted. For a full list of 2020 communications go to: [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/calendars](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/calendars).



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## Step into the Spotlight

Have your article featured in the next edition of the *Spotlight*. Please submit articles to the SMSA office at [office@smsa.org](mailto:office@smsa.org). Articles can showcase your state safety campaigns, state programs, best practices, teaching techniques, new motorcycles or other motorcycle safety related news.

Please see the [SMSA Guidelines for Submitting Spotlight Articles](#) for more information.

Advertisements for Supporting Members: please submit your new advertisements that can be featured in the *Spotlight*.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
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**Thank you for your continued support and interest in SMSA.**

## Thank You SMSA Supporting Members

