

For all new drivers, here's the 411 on Motorcycle Safety



During 1998, 196 young motorcycle drivers (15 to 20 years old) were killed and an additional 6,000 were injured.



During 1998, 53% of the motorcycle drivers between 15 and 20 years old who were fatally injured in crashes were not wearing helmets.



In 1998, there were 2,284 motorcyclist fatalities and 49,000 motorcyclist injuries.



WHY SHOULD YOU WEAR A HELMET?

- ◆ The state of Virginia requires helmet use by all motorcycle operators and passengers.
- ◆ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that helmets saved 500 motorcyclists' lives in 1998, and that 307 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.
- ◆ Helmets are estimated to be 29% effective in preventing fatalities and 67% effective in preventing brain injuries.
- ◆ No matter what the speed, unhelmeted riders are 3 times more likely to die from head injuries than are riders who are wearing helmets at the time of the crash. The state of Virginia requires helmet use by all motorcycle operators and passengers.

