



For more information contact:

Steve Rector
ABATE of Iowa State Coordinator
641-752-2476
maddog@marshallnet.com

Angela Cherry
Strategic America
515-453-2113
acherry@strategicamerica.com

Unlicensed Motorcyclists Pose Risk to Themselves and Others *ABATE of Iowa Offers Safe Driving Tips*

DES MOINES, IOWA – June 15, 2006 – Motorcyclists riding without valid motorcycle licenses have been involved in four of the 12 motorcycle fatalities reported in Iowa in 2006. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 33 percent of motorcycle operators killed in traffic crashes are not licensed or are improperly licensed to operate a motorcycle. As a group, unlicensed riders are two to three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than the typical licensed rider.

Warm temperatures and high gas prices are driving an increasing number of motorcyclists to hit the road this summer. However, too many of those riders are doing so without first obtaining a valid motorcycle license. Without a license and proper training, these riders fail to learn important safety rules which render them a danger to themselves, drivers and other riders.

To avoid an increase in injuries and fatalities, ABATE of Iowa recommends all riders participate in a rider safety course and obtain a motorcycle license from the Department of Motor Vehicles before venturing onto Iowa's streets and highways.

ABATE of Iowa also encourage riders to abide by the following safety guidelines:

Safe Driving Tips

- Always ride unimpaired. Never use alcohol or other drugs before or during a ride as they affect vitally important reaction abilities. Also be aware of the effects of over the counter or prescription drugs.
- Ride within your limits. Don't let other riders dictate your pace and remember to slow down when conditions call for it.
- Drive to survive. Be extra cautious and pay attention to the signals and brake lights of other vehicles. You also need to be prepared in the event their signals or lights don't work. Ride with caution and drive defensively.
- Wear protective gear. Eye protection, full-fingered gloves, sturdy pants, long-sleeved jacket and over-the-ankle-boots are the recommended riding gear to help minimize impact and abrasion injuries if you happen to fall.

ABATE (A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education) of Iowa is a not-for-profit motorcycle rights organization for motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the state of Iowa. Its thousands of Iowa members comprise 23 districts around the state. ABATE promotes safe riding habits, encourages favorable legislation for motorcyclists and keeps its members, motorcyclists and the public informed of important motorcycle and safety issues. For more information on ABATE visit www.abateiowa.org.