

## OSAL Program Script

*Pass out OSAL brochures. Recommend they show them to family and friends!*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I belong to an organization called A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania. A.B.A.T.E. stands for Alliance of Bikers Aimed Towards Education. This organization began in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1977.

Our mission is to protect the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change, charitable works and public education. Our program today is called Operation 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.

All kinds of people ride motorcycles – *Give examples*

We're not here to get you to become motorcycle riders but to help you to become aware of motorcycles on the road.

1. How many here ride a motorcycle?
2. How many have family or friends who ride a motorcycle?
3. How many have been a passenger on a motorcycle?
4. Is anybody here interested in learning how to ride a motorcycle?

You can take the Motorcycle Safety Program free of charge and your motorcycle learner's permit will be stamped as a valid PA motorcycle license upon successful completion of the course. Within 120 days, the Department of Transportation will issue you a motorcycle license. Call 1-800-845-9533 between 8:00AM and 4:30PM for scheduling dates and a location near you. Your Drivers License Center also has all the information. You will be instructed to wear required clothing for the riding portion of the program. They will supply the rest, including the motorcycle and the helmet. If you think you may never ride a motorcycle, you can take the course anyway. It will give you a new respect for motorcycling. Veteran motorcycle riders should also take the course. You are never too old to learn and there is an Advanced Motorcycle Safety Course available.

When you see a single accident involving a motorcycle, it is usually due to:

1. Inexperience
2. Lack of training
3. No license

Most people think because motorcycles are small (*“as with this bike,” if you have one at your presentation*) and can easily be maneuvered; that they can get out of any dangerous situation they may encounter. This is not always what happens. We face hazards on the same road that you, the automobile driver, may simply straddle over. We must make motorists aware that because we are small in size, we cannot always be seen clearly. You must realize that we share the same roads, and learn to be more aware of our presence.

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 motorcyclist’s right of way. If you are involved in an accident 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 serious injury or death of another human being.

*\* See note below*

At this time we are going to show you our Operation Save-A-Life video. You should have a worksheet that looks like this (show OSAL worksheet). Go ahead and circle the correct answers to the questions as we view the video and then we will go over it.

- Play OSAL video
- Go over OSAL worksheet

**Note to Presenters:**

*Optional: Play the MSF video “The Common Road” and go over the “Cars, Motorcycles and a Common Road” worksheet **before you play the OSAL video.***

*The Motorcycle Safety Foundation is pushing its agenda on SMRO’s motorcycle safety and awareness programs. It is for this reason we are not encouraging the use of their video.*

*However, if you choose to use their video and ride to the presentation site, you must abide by their rules: wear a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeved shirt, long pants, full-fingered riding gloves, and boots over the ankles.*

Now let's go over six things shown in the film (s)...

## 1. **Blind spots**

We see the necessity to look twice, three times or more at an intersection or before changing lanes. People pull out in front of a motorcycle, turn left in front of a motorcycle and swerve into a motorcyclist's lane. After the accident they say they "never saw the motorcyclist." We ask how it is possible not to see a grown man or woman on a motorcycle weighing in at 800-1000 pounds!

One reason is the way your body is made. We have blind spots in our eyes. Everyone has them and there is no way around it. It is simply the way light is reflected in your eye. You take a quick look left and right and if a motorcycle is in that blind spot, you will not see it.

*\*Do activity worksheet*

Realize that because motorcycles are smaller, they can easily be hidden by objects both inside and outside of your car: door posts, mirrors, passengers, bushes, fences and bridges. So when you are out there on the road, look three times and let the motorcyclist get through your blind spot.

## 2. **Road Hazards**

We hear them talk of road hazards in the video. What are some of the things we as motorcyclists view as hazards, that you as car drivers wouldn't give a second thought?

*Entertain answers*

- Loose gravel on the road
- Oil slicks
- Large potholes that cars can straddle
- A rock kicked up by another vehicle
- Something falling from a truck
- A strong gust of wind
- Passenger's movements

As you see, there are many things we are looking at that you, as drivers, see past. This brings up the business of tailgating.

### 3. **Tailgating**

You're driving along in your car enjoying life, not thinking about these things. If you come up behind a motorcycle and the motorcyclist hits loose gravel or something happens that the motorcyclist has to stop, slow down, or even worse, lay the bike down, the last thing we need is for you to run us over. This could lead to an accident causing serious injury or death. Leave room between your vehicle and motorcycles, 3-4 second space cushion at least.

**Please do not tailgate!**

### 4. **Turn signals**

Many motorcyclists still use the old style of hand signals when they are going to make a turn. The turn signals on bikes are not as bright as car turn signals. People have a tendency to look at motorcycles and when they see the motorcyclist do something with his hand, it draws their attention. Even though the motorist might not know what the hand signals mean, they tend to slow down.

*Ask for a volunteer to come up to help show the different hand signals*

1. Right turn
2. Left turn
3. Slow/stop

Please recognize these hand signals and remember to always use YOUR turn signals so motorcyclists and other drivers will know what your intentions are.

### **Be Aware...**

Not all motorcycles have self-canceling turn signals. Sometimes a rider may forget to manually turn them off. Please pay attention to the rider's actions so you will understand what he is about to do before you make a move.

5. **Balance of a motorcycle**

*Have a young lady come up and lift the bike off its kickstand with the assistance of the presenter.*

We do this to show the perfect balance of the motorcycle. Engineers are paid a lot of money to accomplish this.

6. **Ask what are the two things that can destroy all this work**

- a) Drugs
- b) Alcohol

These substances will impair your vision, physical coordination, and timing. They will affect your judgment. Don't use drugs or alcohol and drive.

The last thing I want to see is you coming at me high or drunk in a car. Remember, a car has seat belts, air bags, and a steel cage to protect you. On a motorcycle, it's the rider that hits.

When you see a motorcycle on the road, please don't think of it as a motorcycle. Think of it as a person.

*Field any questions*

*Conclude by thanking them for having you and for their cooperation*

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Ask the instructor or contact to please fill out and mail the Evaluation Report Form. Provide them with a stamped envelope addressed to:

OSAL Director  
A.B.A.T.E. of PA  
PO Box 15226  
Harrisburg PA 17105

After your presentation, send a report to the OSAL Director or fill out the OSAL Report form online.