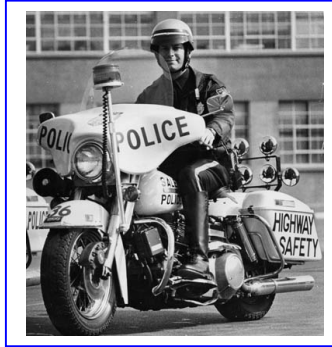




LOUD PIPES RISK RIGHTS

Please Ride Quiet

Shifting blame and failure to adopt responsible policies on a voluntary basis can only result in greater prejudice and discrimination against motorcycling. The consequences of continuing to ignore this issues will likely result in excessive rigorous state and federal standards. Motorcycle noise has been the Number 1 complaint among residents throughout the United States. The **SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT** in conjunction with the **MASSACHUSETTS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION** has given you this illustration in an attempt to explain why this one issue continues to be breaking the connection between riders and residents. We ask our riding visitors and area residents to remember to ride throughout the area steadily, without excessive revving or roaring of engines especially at night while families are asleep.



Exhaust Noise Abatement

We all know that the mellow baritone exhaust sound from a motorcycle engine can be music to many riders' ears. As a courtesy to Salem residents, we ask that you keep your engine's exhaust noise at reasonable levels within city limits. When an engine has a performance exhaust system, the easiest way to keep exhaust noise down to reasonable levels is to use less RPMs. For example, try limiting your engine speed within the city limits to 2500-3000 RPM. This can be easily accomplished by up shifting to the next highest gear earlier than normal. Up shifting early will allow you to take advantage of the low speed torque. Your bike will still accelerate quickly, but with less noise. As a result, you will find that you will not need to use the engine's high RPM horsepower, which is what produces high noise levels.

Based on its commitment to finding harmony between the rights of city residents and those of the motorcycling community, the Salem Police Department recommends the following:

All motorcyclists should be sensitive to community standards and respect the rights of fellow citizens to enjoy a peaceful environment. Motorcyclists should not modify exhaust systems in a way that will increase sound to an offensive level.

Organizers of motorcycle events should take steps through advertising, peer pressure and enforcement to make excessively loud motorcycles unwelcome. Motorcycle retailers should discourage the installation and use of excessively loud replacement exhaust systems. The motorcycle industry, including aftermarket suppliers of replacement exhaust systems, should adopt responsible product design and marketing policies aimed at limiting the cumulative impact of excessive motorcycle noise. Manufacturers producing motorcycles to appropriate federal standards should continue to educate their dealers and customers that louder exhaust systems do not necessarily improve the performance of a motorcycle. The Salem Police Department will fairly and consistently enforce appropriate laws and ordinances against excessive vehicle noise. The motorcycle industry and the safety community should educate customers that excessive noise may be fatiguing to riders, making them less able to enjoy riding and less able to exercise good riding skills.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the allowable sound levels?

A: MGL c90-7U **When moving-** operating in such a manner to exceed 82 decibels when operated within a speed of 45 MPH or less; or 86 decibels in a speed zone of over 45 MPH. Measured at 50 feet away using a decibel meter.

When stationary- 102 decibels for motorcycles manufactured before 1987; and 99 decibels for motorcycles manufactured in 1987 and after (+/- 2 decibels).

Q: Is it improper or a violation to modify "stock" exhausts?

A: No, as long as those aftermarket exhaust systems do not amplify or increase the noise emitted by exhaust.

Q: At what levels can a rider's hearing be impaired?

A: According to medical opinion and OSHA standards, constant or excessive exposure to decibel levels greater than 90 can impair a person's hearing for a lifetime.

Q: What are the fines and penalties for excessive noise?

A: MGL c90-7U Motorcycle maximum sound violation \$35

MGL c90-16 Excessive or unnecessary noise \$50

POLICE OFFICERS MAY WRITE ONE OR BOTH

Q: Will these violations affect my insurance rates?

A: Yes

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LOVE TO RIDE?



We know how you feel.

**“Please Drive Safely
and Quietly”**



Visit our website at www.salempd.net

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**Salem
Police
Department**



**ROBERT M. ST. PIERRE
CHIEF OF POLICE**

***Ride To Be Seen
NOT HEARD!***



www.massmotorcycle.org

