



Press Release

"Action, Urgency, Excellence"

To: All Media Representatives

From: Lieutenant Jeff Melvin

Date: 4-16-09

Subject: Operation of dirt bikes

As we all know, spring is just around the corner and the outdoor enthusiasts are ready to take advantage of the seasonal weather. With miles of un-developed terrain in our backyard, it is no surprise that dirt biking is one of the most popular past times in our area. Along with the increased activity, comes increased call responses for the Sheriffs Office.

We at the Sheriff's Office encourage you to take advantage of our unique surroundings and to do it in a safe and legal way. Taking a few precautions and getting informed on local laws will help you to enjoy your activities to the maximum. Here are a few things to remember when you embark on your dirt biking adventures:

- Let someone know where you are going
- Take enough fuel to assure that you will not run out when you are out and about
- Make sure your bike is in good repair and well maintained
- Wear proper safety equipment that is in good shape, including a helmet
- Stay with your group
- Take a cell phone with you
- Take water and snacks
- Obey all laws

We get a lot of calls for accidents and overdue riders, but our top call is for dirt bikes too close to homes. Here is a reminder of the Carson City Code:

CCMC 10.30.120

1. It is unlawful for any person to drive a motorcycle not equipped with an effective and operating muffler:
 - a. Within five hundred feet (500') of any residence owned or occupied by another; or
 - b. More than five hundred feet (500') from any residence owned or occupied by another where the operation of such motorcycle disturbs the peace; or
 - c. On any highway.
2. It is unlawful for any parent, guardian, or other person having charge, care, custody or control of any person under the age of eighteen (18) years to permit such person to be in violation of subsection 1 of this section after notice. Notice shall be given to the parent, guardian, or other person having care, custody or control of the person by personal service, and shall refer to this section, giving specific dates and times of violations and shall inform the parent, guardian, or other person having the charge, care, custody or control of any person under the age of eighteen (18) years, that continued violation by their child shall subject them to criminal prosecution.
3. It is unlawful for any person to drive any motorcycle so as to disturb the peace and quiet of any neighborhood.
(Ord. 1978-13 § 1 (part), 1978).

Remember, dirt bikes are not designed for highway use and are not safe for highway use. Also keep in mind that five hundred feet is not a real long distance, and it is always neighborly to be considerate of others, so don't ride too close to houses or businesses. Please have fun and be safe!