

SAFETY SENSE

Pocket Bike Safety Guide

(NAPSA)—Motorized mini bikes have been in use for over 20 years. However, recent advances in technology have allowed for an increase in production and affordability of these pocket bikes, leading to a surge in popularity. In fact, there are currently 19 pocket bike racing associations across the nation. With the number of pocket bike riders increasing daily, pocket bike safety has become a pressing issue, particularly for parents of younger riders. While obvious precautions need to be taken when using any moving object, these products may be enjoyed by responsible riders in the proper environment. For instance, due to their low profile, these products have never been for use on public streets.

Razor USA, a leading manufacturer of electric mini motorcycles, has joined with the California Highway Patrol to provide the following tips for riders to keep in mind while on their pocket bikes.

Pocket bikes are not for use as transportation on public streets or anywhere else there is traffic. Pocket bikes should only be ridden in controlled environments with smooth surfaces. Always check and obey local laws regard-



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ing use on public property.

Avoid wet and icy conditions, speed bumps, sand, gravel and anything that could cause your tires to skid. Never ride at night.

Electric pocket bikes should not be used by children under the age of 12, and use of the faster “gas powered” types of pocket bikes should be restricted to even more mature riders. Parents should always exercise judgment in determining the rider’s individual maturity, skill and ability to follow rules before allowing their child to use these products.

At a minimum, always wear an ANSI, SNELL, or ATSM approved

helmet, and elbow and kneepads when riding an electric pocket bike. Special protective equipment is available for use with such products and is recommended especially if you are riding a faster, gas-powered pocket bike. Wear athletic shoes (lace-up shoes with rubber soles). Never ride barefoot or in sandals. Keep shoelaces out of the way of wheels.

Make sure your pocket bike is ready before you ride. Check your brakes before starting out. Tighten all bolts and make sure the handlebars are locked in place before riding.

Hold handlebars at all times. Learn how tight a turn you can comfortably make. Get used to applying the brakes.

Like any moving product, riding a pocket bike involves risk. Always exercise caution and common sense.

For additional safety information and ideas on places to ride, visit Razor’s Web site at www.razor.com. For information on local pocket bike associations and events, check www.pocketbikeplanet.com, or check the National Kart News Track and Club Directory at www.nkn.com.