



Monthly Newsletter

April 2024



Motorcycle training at Sacramento Safety Center

If you crave the thrill of riding the open road aboard a motorcycle, [Sacramento's Safety Center](#) has a training program to help you ride safely.

The Department of Motor Vehicles requires both written and road tests to obtain a motorcyclist license in California. For riders under age 21, attending a training program is also required. For those 21 and over, the course is optional, but taking it allows you to waive the DMV road test.

Safety Center offers separate courses for beginners, intermediate and advanced riders, as well as a special one for three-wheel riders. The courses are sanctioned by the Highway Patrol and are designed and presented by [Total Control Training](#).

Safety First



According to instructor Lisa Christensen, safety is at the core of the center's motorcyclist training program.

"That means taking ownership of your responsibilities as a rider," she explained. "You're the only person out there making the decisions and you're going to be the one to save your life and avoid a crash or potentially end up in one."

"I know there are a lot of people with concerns about getting on this two-wheeled death machine," Christensen noted. "We teach that this is not like driving in a car while texting on your cell phone. You have to be 110 percent focused. You need to be aware of things that you would never think about when riding in a car. For instance, things like sand or gravel can be very dangerous to a rider on a vehicle with two wheels. Our goal is not to make people fearful, it is to make them aware."

Course Topics

For beginners, she said the course covers a multitude of hazards. "We cover everything from oil slicks, to potholes, to an animal running out in front of you, to other vehicles. We also go into how important it is to have all the proper gear all the time. And, of course, we teach the fundamentals of riding a motorcycle. Such as how to start the motorcycle and use the controls, proper body position, how to make maneuvers for high speed and low speed conditions. We go over all that in class and then we go out and practice it on the range."

Christensen said about half of those who sign up for the courses are under 21.

"The most common issue with young people is that they don't have much experience even driving a car," she said. "We have to teach them that they can't just go out there and do whatever they want. They need to be prepared for all the possible situations they could encounter. Just using a clutch is a surprise to many of them. Also, in a car, you're mainly just looking forward most of the time. On a motorcycle, you are using your entire body as a tool, not just your eyes."

Adult Participants

She said a large percentage of the adults who take courses are people who rode when they were young and are now returning to riding.

"Most come in because they can't pass the DMV test," she noted. "They grew up when there were none of the rules there are today. Back then, they just got on the motorcycle and started riding. Now they come to us with big new bikes thinking that they still have those old tricks up their sleeves, but it turns out to be a re-learning process."

Cost

Christensen said the center has classes on both weekends and weekdays. In the standard California Motorcyclist Safety Program, trained paid staff provide 10 hours of classroom training and 10 hours of training on the bike. For those students under 21, the fee is \$395. Those 21 and older pay \$425.

The center also offers a special four-hour class for three-wheel motorcycle riders for just \$50. "Most participants are older who used to ride motorcycles but now may have balance issues. We provide all the three-wheelers for the class."

For further information or to sign up for a training program, go to <https://safetycenter.org/motorcycle-training/> .

County 311 app now available

[Sacramento County 311](#) is a simple, three-digit number to call for help with almost any non-emergency issue in Unincorporated Sacramento County. You can also access 311 through the County's mobile app via the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

When you contact 3-1-1, Sac County 311 Customer Service Representatives can assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in submitting requests for county services, such as:

- Abandoned vehicles or shopping carts
- Animals that are stray, deceased or dangerous
- Code violations
- Curb, gutter or sidewalk repair
- Graffiti
- Illegal dumping
- Missed garbage collection
- Potholes
- Street light problems

Sac County 311 also connects citizens to information about County Departments, Offices and services.

County launches podcast series

Sacramento County has launched a new [County Conversations: Sac County Podcast](#).

According to the announcement, this monthly podcast series aims to provide listeners a look into the county's operations, programs and the individuals who lead them.

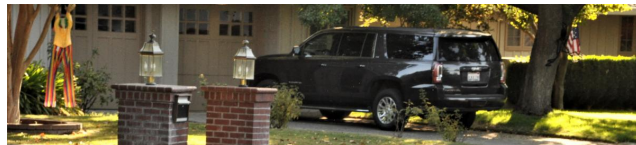
It will feature in-depth interviews with county leaders and discussions about various programs.

The inaugural episode, now available for streaming, features Marlon Yarber, chief probation officer. He provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the Department of Probation, addresses myths surrounding probation, discusses the department's focus on rehabilitation and shares anecdotes about overcoming challenges.

Listeners can subscribe via their preferred podcast platforms by searching for Sacramento County and clicking on the County Conversations episode. Additionally, [episodes can be streamed on the County's podcast webpage](#).

Wild turkey safety

Spring is the mating season for wild turkeys, a time when the males spend most of their days strutting around and gobbling for attention



from females.

For that reason, we most often hear about wild turkey problems this time of year. The birds turn up everywhere: in the middle of the street, in front yards, perched on roofs, clustered on walkways and patios, feasting on berries in trees.



What's a homeowner to do?

The bad news is, there are no state or county agencies (and no nonprofits, either) that will step in to deal with nuisance wild turkeys. California's Department of Fish & Wildlife may respond to problems with large predators, such as coyotes or mountain lions, but does not offer any services regarding nuisance turkeys, according to David Mollel an environmental scientist with the department. Likewise, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services only reacts to protect people, livestock or endangered species from large predators or to protect roads and dams from threats from beaver dams or animals that burrow into levees.

In other words, if you are having a turkey problem, you're on your own. However, according to experts, there are several things that can be quite effective against turkeys. Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

Don't feed wild turkeys

Many conflicts with turkeys occur in areas where they're being fed by people. The first step toward resolving conflicts with turkeys is to eliminate sources of food, such as handouts from people, unsecured garbage and spilled bird seed. Consider removing bird feeders (especially in the spring and summer) until the turkeys move on. Remember to also talk to your neighbors to ensure that they are not feeding turkeys.

Scare away problem turkeys

Wild turkeys have a "pecking order" of dominance and may view people or pets who act fearful as underlings, chasing them or blocking the entrance to homes or cars. If a wild turkey (or a flock of turkeys) has invaded your yard or driveway, it's important that you establish your dominance by hazing the turkey(s). It's easy to scare turkeys away by making noises (try waving your arms and yelling or blowing a whistle), popping open an umbrella, throwing tennis balls or dousing the turkey with water from a hose or squirt gun. A leashed dog may also be effective in scaring a turkey away.

It's important that all members of your family (including children and the elderly) exhibit their dominance over your neighborhood turkeys through hazing in order to have the desired effect. Although wild turkeys may look large and intimidating, they are usually timid and scare easily.

During mating season, male turkeys may respond aggressively to reflective surfaces (such as windows, automobile mirrors or polished car doors), thinking that their reflection is an intruding male turkey. In this case, haze the turkey away and then temporarily cover the reflective surface, if possible.

Encourage roosting turkeys to move elsewhere

To break up turkey roosts on decks or roofs, making loud noises or spraying them with a water hose is usually all that's needed, although sometimes a follow-up treatment might be necessary.

You may also use motion-activated sprinklers that will scare turkeys away with a sharp burst of water. Or you can install anti-perching devices, such as coiled wire that creates an unstable landing surface on fences, thereby deterring the turkeys. Both are available online.

Protect your garden from turkeys

Most of the garden damage blamed on wild turkeys is actually caused by animals such as raccoons or squirrels. But if turkeys are scratching around your petunias, a motion-activated sprinkler can be effective or you can protect plants and vegetables with hardware cloth. Avoid the use of netting, which can entrap birds and other animals.

For more information, you can download a brochure from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=57515&inline>

Protect your verification codes

When you log into your bank or credit card account, you might get a text message or email with a verification code. You then enter it at the login screen to confirm it's really you. That's a form of two-factor authentication that adds a layer of security to your account – and keeps would-be scammers and hackers out.



According to the [Federal Trade Commission](#), your account password and a verification code work together, like the lock on your doorknob and a deadbolt lock. If you unlock the doorknob but not the deadbolt, you can't get in. Likewise, if you know the account password but not the verification code, you can't get in.

The same goes for scammers trying to get into your account. To break into your account, scammers need both keys. That's why they try to trick you into sharing your [verification code](#).

Scammers pretend to be someone you can trust, and say they've discovered a problem with one of your accounts, or that someone's using your identity. They may know some things about you and sound very convincing. They may even be very sympathetic to your problem: offering to help you set things right ... and then asking for your verification code to get into your account.

If you give them the code, they can log into your account and transfer all the money out of your savings or investment accounts.

Never give your verification code to someone else. It's only for you to log into your

account. Anyone who asks you for your account verification code is a scammer.

If someone asks you for your verification code, don't engage. Hang up. Block their number. Stop texting them. Then report them to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).

If you're worried that there's a problem with your account, contact your bank, credit union, or investment advisor directly. Use a number you trust, like the one on your statement or in your app. Never use the number the caller gave you; it'll take you to the scammer.

Avast fined \$16.5 million for privacy violation

Software provider Avast sold products to people that were supposed to protect their privacy online. But in a recently settled lawsuit, the FTC says Avast's business practices actually compromised consumers' privacy and broke the law.

Since at least 2014, Avast collected a treasure trove of user information through its antivirus software and browser extensions without people's consent. This included information about their

- religious beliefs
- health concerns
- political leanings
- locations
- financial status

But that's not all, the FTC says Avast sold the information through its subsidiary Jumpshot without notifying people and getting their consent (again).

The FTC's settlement order prohibits Avast from misrepresenting how it uses the data it collects. Additionally, Avast will pay \$16.5 million dollars in redress to compensate people.

Member Q&A

Q: I notice that our deputies are sometimes called away to help with crime incidents outside our neighborhood. Can we prevent that from happening and just keep deputies on patrol here?

A: Yes, on occasion, our off-duty deputies are called away to assist with criminal activity elsewhere. While they are away, they are off the clock and we do not pay for the time they are assigned elsewhere. And, fortunately, in most cases they are not gone for long.

However, to answer your question, we do not have the authority to prevent the Sheriff's Department from dispatching our off-duty patrol units to other areas when the need arises. Our deputies (and their patrol vehicles) are first and foremost under the authority of the Sheriff's Department. If there is an emergency or an urgent need, the department has total authority to dispatch our units to other areas.

On the flip side of this issue, off-duty deputies working in other areas have also been dispatched to our neighborhood when they were needed. So, it is a two-way street.

HOW TO CALL FOR HELP

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you have an immediate emergency - if your life or property is in immediate danger, if you feel threatened by someone on or near your property, if you have just become the victim of a crime or if you are witnessing a crime in progress:

- CALL 911 from a land line.
- Or, if calling from a cell phone within Sacramento County, call (916) 874-5111.

TO REPORT A CRIME

There are two ways to report a crime to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

1. Call the Sheriff's Department NON-EMERGENCY LINE at (916) 874-5115. To bypass the recorded messaging when you call, dial 0 after the line is answered.
2. File a report online through the Sheriff's Department website. Click on this link to begin the process: https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY (Not an emergency)

If you see someone engaged in suspicious activity but it is not an emergency, call 916-874-5115 (Sheriff's Department non-emergency line).

GENERAL CONCERNS, REPORTS OR QUESTIONS

If you have an issue that can be addressed later, you may contact our neighborhood patrol officers about it. The best way is via **EMAIL at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com**.

Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association | 761 Cortland Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864

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