

# STREETSKILL

## Putting the Brakes on Bad Driving

### Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Scooter safety!

Throughout the month of February, scooter users in the Cayman Islands will be encouraged to consider their safety while riding and the security of their scooters when they are not.

Members of the *Streetskill* committee chose to target scooter safety during the month of February (2008) following a number of collisions involving scooters and a series of scooters being stolen.

Many residents in the Cayman Islands use scooters as not only a means of transport but also as a hobby and it is essential that riders do all they can to keep themselves safe.

"Scooters need to be kept in good condition with all components in working order and riders need to consider their actions on the roads carefully," said Commissioner of Police, Mr Stuart Kernohan. "Brakes need to be maintained, lights need to be operational and horns should be functional. Extra precautions such as wearing gloves and light clothes should also be considered."

*Streetskill* member Aileen Samuels from the Cayman Islands Road Safety Advisory Council also stressed the need for riders and motorists to pay attention. "Riders and drivers need to be responsible, particularly on busy roads," she said. "Both need to look out for each other and be aware of their actions. Always use indicators to let others know what you are going to do and look in all directions before manoeuvring."

The Commissioner added that traffic laws which apply to motorists also apply to persons riding scooters. "All signs and signals need to be obeyed by riders," he said. "In addition, riders will dramatically decrease their chances of being involved in a collision if they ride on the correct side of the road – which is the left, alongside the traffic and overtake only on broken white lines on the right of the traffic travelling in the same direction as you."

In addition, owners should make sure their scooter is secure when left unattended. Owners are being encouraged to invest in a heavy duty chain which can be fitted through the

wheel base of the scooter and attached to a secure object preventing it from being taken away. Officers are also asking that anyone who is offered a scooter for sale at a low price or without the necessary documents to contact their local police station immediately.

Throughout the month of February adverts will run in the cinema, in the print media and information leaflets will be distributed across the Island, particularly at scooter rental businesses.

The *Streetskill* campaign, launched on May 1 2006 by the National Roads Authority (NRA), the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) and The Cayman Islands Road Safety Advisory Council (CIRSAC)), is aimed at educating motorists and influencing their behaviour.

Organisers are looking for feedback on the campaign and welcome ideas and thoughts from the community. Residents are encouraged to contact [deborah.denis@gov.ky](mailto:deborah.denis@gov.ky) - 244-3004 or [marion.pandohie@gov.ky](mailto:marion.pandohie@gov.ky) – 244-5865.

The *Streetskill* committee is issuing the following advice to scooter owners and renters:

**General safety measures:**

- Always wear a helmet with chin strap fastened
- Windshields or goggles should be considered to protect your eyes
- Consider fixing florescent straps to your clothes or the side of your scooter so you can be seen easily
- Gloves, long sleeve jackets and pants help protect you if you fall off
- Secure all baggage – do not hang anything from the handlebars

**Your Bike:**

- All brakes, lights, horn and mirrors should be fitted and working correctly
- Tyres need to be in a good condition and inflated to correct pressure

**Your actions:**

- Only overtake on BROKEN white lines
- Only overtake on the right of traffic travelling in the same direction as you
- When overtaking, be aware of vehicles entering your carriageway from the left who may be turning right across your path
- Look all around before manoeuvring – behind, to the sides and to the front
- Keep your headlight on at all times – this helps you be seen in daylight hours
- Only carry one passenger
- Passengers must be seated on the scooter, with feet on the footrests and wearing a helmet

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Please feel free to copy and use the *Streetskill* logo as featured at the top of the release.

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