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SAFETY FIRST

Safe Operating Rules: Buell 1125 Models

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⚠ WARNING

Motorcycles are different from other vehicles. They operate, steer, handle and brake differently. Unskilled or improper use could result in loss of control, death or serious injury. (00556c)

- Take a rider training course.
- Read Owner's Manual before riding, adding accessories or servicing.
- Wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing.
- Never tow a trailer.

Before operating your new Buell, it is your responsibility to read and follow operating and maintenance instructions in this manual. Follow these basic rules for your personal safety.

Know and respect the rules of the road. See **Rules of the Road: Buell Models**. Read and observe the RIDING TIPS booklet that comes with this Owner's Manual. You should also read and know the contents of the MOTORCYCLE HANDBOOK for your state.

Before starting engine, check for proper operation of brake, clutch, shifter and throttle controls. Inspect fuel and oil supply.

⚠ WARNING

Do not use aftermarket parts and custom made front forks which can adversely affect performance and handling. Removing or altering factory installed parts can adversely affect performance and could result in death or serious injury. (00001a)

Use only Buell approved parts and accessories. Use of certain "race only" or other manufacturer's performance parts will void your new motorcycle warranty. See a Buell dealer for details.

⚠ WARNING

Avoid spills. Slowly remove filler cap. Do not fill above bottom of filler neck insert, leaving air space for fuel expansion. Secure filler cap after refueling. Gasoline is extremely flammable and highly explosive, which could result in death or serious injury. (00028a)

⚠ WARNING

Use care when refueling. Pressurized air in fuel tank can force gasoline to escape through filler tube. Gasoline is extremely flammable and highly explosive, which could result in death or serious injury. (00029a)

⚠ WARNING

Do not remove radiator filler cap when engine is hot. The cooling system is under pressure and hot coolant and steam can escape, which could cause severe burns. Allow engine to cool before servicing the cooling system. (00091a)

⚠ CAUTION

At operating temperature, the radiator and oil cooler contain hot fluids. Contact with the radiator or oil cooler can result in minor or moderate burns. (00141a)

⚠ CAUTION

Cooling fans operate automatically, even when the ignition switch is off. Keep hands away from fan blades. Contact with a rotating fan blade can result in minor or moderate injury. (00093a)

⚠ WARNING

Engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm. (00004f)

⚠ WARNING

Wheel weights on wheels without spokes contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm. (00356d)

⚠ WARNING

Do not run motorcycle in a closed garage or confined area. Inhaling motorcycle exhaust, which contains poisonous carbon monoxide gas, could result in death or serious injury. (00005a)

See **Break-in Riding Rules: Buell 1125 Models**. A new motorcycle must be operated according to the break-in procedure.

Operate motorcycle only at moderate speed and out of traffic until you have become thoroughly familiar with its operation and handling characteristics under all conditions.

NOTE:

We recommend that you obtain information and formal training in the correct motorcycle riding technique. In the

United States, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation® offers beginning and experienced rider safety courses. Call (949) 727-3227 for information.

⚠WARNING

Travel at speeds appropriate for road and conditions and never travel faster than posted speed limit. Excessive speed can cause loss of vehicle control, which could result in death or serious injury. (00008a)

Know your limits as a rider. Do not exceed the legal speed limit or drive too fast for existing conditions. Always reduce speed when poor driving conditions exist and/or you feel the driving situation is uncomfortable. High speed increases the influence of any other condition affecting stability and increases the possibility of loss of control.

If you are a novice rider, do not carry a passenger until you have experienced at least two riding seasons, your motorcycle will handle different when carrying a passenger.

Pay strict attention to road surfaces and wind conditions. Your motorcycle may be subject to the following upsetting forces:

1. Wind blasts from passing trucks.
2. Holes in the pavement.
3. Strips of tar used to seal cracked pavement.
4. Rough road surfaces.
5. Rider control error, etc.

These forces may influence the handling characteristics of your motorcycle. If this happens, reduce speed and guide the motorcycle with a relaxed grip to a controlled condition. Do not brake abruptly or force the handlebar; this may aggravate an unstable condition.

NOTE:

New riders should gain experience under various conditions while riding at moderate speeds.

Operate your motorcycle defensively. Remember, a motorcycle does not afford the same protection as an automobile in an accident. One of the most common accident situations occurs when the driver of the other vehicle fails to see or recognize a motorcycle and turns left into the oncoming motorcyclist. Riding with headlamp high beam switch on during daylight hours will increase your chances of visibility.

Wear a helmet, clothing, and foot gear suited for motorcycle riding. Bright or light colors are best for greater visibility in traffic, especially at night. Avoid loose, flowing garments and scarves.

⚠WARNING

Avoid contact with exhaust system and wear protective clothing that completely covers legs while riding. Exhaust pipes and mufflers get very hot when engine is running and remain too hot to touch, even after engine is turned off. Failure to wear protective clothing could result in burns or other serious injury. (00009a)

When carrying passengers, it is your responsibility to instruct them on proper riding procedures.

Do not allow others under any circumstances to operate your motorcycle unless you know they are experienced, licensed riders and are familiar with the operation of your particular motorcycle.

Protect your motorcycle against theft. After parking your motorcycle, lock the steering head and remove ignition key from switch. Arm the security system.

Safe motorcycle operation requires alert mental judgment combined with a defensive driving attitude. Do not allow fatigue, alcohol or drugs to endanger your safety or that of others.

See MAINTENANCE AND LUBRICATION section. Maintain your motorcycle in proper operating condition in accordance with the Maintenance Intervals chart in this Owner's Manual. Particularly important to motorcycle stability is proper tire inflation pressure, tread condition and proper inspection of wheel bearings and steering head bearings.

⚠ WARNING

Perform the service and maintenance operations as indicated in the regular service interval table. Lack of regular maintenance at the recommended intervals can affect the safe operation of your motorcycle, which could result in death or serious injury. (00010a)

⚠ WARNING

Do not operate motorcycle with loose, worn or damaged steering or suspension systems. Contact a Buell dealer for repairs. Loose, worn or damaged steering or suspension components can adversely affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00113a)

Be sure all equipment required by law is installed and in good operating condition.

⚠ WARNING

Use Buell replacement fasteners. Aftermarket fasteners can adversely affect performance, which could result in death or serious injury. (00116a)

See a Buell service manual for proper torque values.

Aftermarket fasteners may not have the specific property requirements to perform properly.

⚠ WARNING

Do not tow a disabled motorcycle. Towing can adversely affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00017a)

⚠ WARNING

Match tires, tubes, air valves and caps to the correct wheel rim. Contact a Buell dealer. Mismatching can result in damage to the tire bead, allow tire slippage on the rim or cause tire failure, which could result in death or serious injury. (00162a)

⚠ WARNING

Be sure tires are properly inflated, balanced and have adequate tread. Inspect your tires regularly and see a Buell dealer for replacements. Riding with excessively worn, unbalanced or under-inflated tires can adversely affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00114a)

⚠ WARNING

Do not exceed the motorcycle's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR). Exceeding these weight ratings can affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00016e)

GVWR is the sum of the weight of the motorcycle, accessories, and the maximum weight of the rider, passenger and cargo that can be safely carried.

GAWR is the maximum amount of weight that can be safely carried on each axle.

The GVWR and GAWR are shown on the information plate, located on the frame steering head.

⚠ WARNING

Do not pull a trailer with a motorcycle. Pulling a trailer can cause tire overload, reduced braking efficiency and adversely affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00018b)

⚠ WARNING

Regularly inspect shock absorbers and front forks. Replace leaking, damaged or worn parts that can adversely affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00012a)

⚠ WARNING

Batteries contain sulfuric acid, which could cause severe burns to eyes and skin. Wear a protective face shield, rubberized gloves and protective clothing when working with batteries. KEEP BATTERIES AWAY FROM CHILDREN. (00063a)

⚠ WARNING

Batteries, battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, and other chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling. (00019e)

⚠ WARNING

Observe warnings on labels of brake and battery fluids and cleaning compounds. Failure to follow warnings could result in death or serious injury. (00131a)

⚠ WARNING

Consult a Buell dealer regarding any questions or problems that occur in the operation of your motorcycle. Failure to do so can aggravate an initial problem, cause costly repairs, cause an accident and could result in death or serious injury. (00115a)

Rules of the Road: Buell Models

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As recommended previously, inexperienced riders are recommended to complete the beginner's Motorcycle RiderCourse[®] sponsored by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation[®]. Important tips about riding safety are listed below.

- Always sound your horn but do not rely on it to be your only defense against other riders or drivers of automobiles and trucks.
- Never try to pass another vehicle going in the same direction at street intersections, on curves, or when going up and/or down a hill.
- When you are at street intersections, give the right-of-way to vehicles according to local regulations. Do not assume you have the right-of-way; the other driver may not know that it is your turn.
- Always use your signals when preparing to pass a vehicle, change lanes, turn or stop.
- All traffic signs, including those used for the control of traffic at intersections, should be obeyed promptly. SLOW DOWN signs near schools and caution signs at railroad crossings should always be observed and your actions governed accordingly.
- When intending to turn, signal at least 100 feet 30 meters before reaching the turning point. When turning across an intersection, move over to the centerline of the street (unless local rules require otherwise). Slow down, enter the intersection of the street and turn carefully.
- Never run through a yellow or red traffic light. When a change is indicated from GO to STOP (or vice versa), slow down and wait for the light to change.
- While turning either right or left, watch for pedestrians and animals; as well as vehicles.
- Do not leave the curb or parking area without signaling and being sure that your way is clear to enter moving traffic. Moving lines of traffic have the right-of-way.
- Be sure that your license plate is installed in the position specified by law and that it is clearly visible at all times. Keeping the plate clean will improve visibility of the motorcycle to other motorists (especially at night).
- Ride at a safe speed that is consistent with the type of highway you are on. Pay strict attention to whether the road is dry, oily, icy, wet or under construction.
- Watch for debris such as leaves or loose gravel.
- Weather and traffic conditions on the highway dictate adjusting your speed and driving habits accordingly.

WARNING

Travel at speeds appropriate for road and conditions and never travel faster than posted speed limit. Excessive speed can cause loss of vehicle control, which could result in death or serious injury. (00008a)

WARNING

Operating this motorcycle in a reckless manner, including performing wheelies, stoppies or burnouts, can lead to parts failure or loss of control, which could result in death or serious injury. (00120a)

Accessories and Cargo: Buell 1125 Models

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⚠WARNING

Improper loading of cargo or installation of accessories can affect motorcycle stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00121a)

Buell Motorcycle Company cannot test and make specific recommendations regarding every accessory or combination of accessories sold, the rider must assume responsibility for safe operation of the motorcycle when installing accessories or carrying additional weight. Use the following guidelines when equipping a motorcycle or carrying passengers and cargo.

⚠WARNING

Do not exceed the motorcycle's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR). Exceeding these weight ratings can affect stability and handling, which could result in death or serious injury. (00016e)

- The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) and Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) are shown on the information plate located on the frame steering head. GVWR is the sum of the weight of the motorcycle and accessories and the maximum weight of the rider and cargo that may be carried safely. Do not pull a trailer with this motorcycle. GAWR is the amount of weight that can be carried on each axle safely. Do not exceed the GVWR or GAWR as indicated on the frame label.
- Keep cargo weight concentrated close to the motorcycle as low as possible to minimize the change in the motorcycle's center of gravity. Distribute weight evenly on both sides of the vehicle and do not load bulky items too far behind the rider or add weight to the handlebars or front forks.
- Be sure cargo is secure and will not shift while riding. Periodically recheck load.
- Accessories that change the operator's riding position can increase reaction time and adversely affect handling. Only use such items if they are designed and approved by Buell Motorcycle Company, built specifically for your motorcycle and installed properly.
- Additional electrical equipment can overload the motorcycle's electrical system and cause an unsafe operating condition.
- Large surfaces, such as fairings, windshields, backrests and luggage racks, can affect handling. These items should be designed and approved by Buell Motorcycle Company specifically for the motorcycle model and properly installed.

⚠WARNING

Travel at speeds appropriate for road and conditions and never travel faster than posted speed limit. Excessive speed can cause loss of vehicle control, which could result in death or serious injury. (00008a)

⚠WARNING

Buell motorcycles are not designed for sidecar use. Sidecar use with a Buell can adversely affect handling and reduce braking efficiency, which could result in death or serious injury. (00132a)

⚠WARNING

Do not use aftermarket parts and custom made front forks which can adversely affect performance and handling. Removing or altering factory installed parts can adversely affect performance and could result in death or serious injury. (00001a)

⚠ WARNING

Keep tail lamp visible at all times. Do not place objects on license plate bracket blocking tail lamp visibility. Low visibility of rider can result in death or serious injury. (00123a)

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