

Accident Scene Management

by Wally Wersching

My 94 year-old mother sends me articles about motorcycling from her paper in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. Last week she sent me one about "Accident Scene Management".

This article dealt with our worst nightmare – a motorcycle accident. I had no idea that there were classes that dealt specifically with this situation. I thought that I'd pass the info on to you.

Every motorcycle rider will eventually lay his or her bike down. I have on a few occasions. Luckily, I wasn't hurt – only my pride and some scratches and broken lenses on the bike. It could have been much worse. God was watching over me.

When I ride today, I notice more and more people with cell phones, food and other things distracting them from paying attention to the act of driving. They are accidents waiting to happen. We can only hope that a motorcyclist will not be involved.

At work, I've been trained as a first responder for many years. Luckily, I haven't been called upon to respond but I know what to do if I am. This would help me if I came upon an accident but wouldn't help much if I was involved in a serious motorcycle accident. I'd be relying on other people to take care of me. The accident site management course is designed to instruct motorcyclists on "what to do" and more so "what not to do". It covers everything from emergency first aid to traffic control.



Sometimes a well-meaning person will do more damage than good if they do the wrong things at an accident site. An example is that your first instinct might be to remove the victim's helmet to help him breathe better or quickly pull him off the pavement to the shoulder. Both of these could be in the "what not to do" category. The ASMI teaches a person when to leave a helmet on and when to take it off. In the class, they practice the safe way of helmet removal. In class, how to best move someone if you have to and how to make that decision are also covered.


The course illustrates and instructs the best practices on what to do at an accident scene. Every accident is different and emotions can also interfere with the thought process. The main thing is to stay calm and not panic. The class is geared for group riding but is an asset to every rider. Many are sponsored by local HOG Chapters and other motorcycle clubs. They are full day classes that cost about \$55.00 per person (or less if a sponsor pays for part of the class). Go to www.accidentscene.org for a class near you. If there aren't any local classes, ask the ASMI how one could be set up. If you have any medical background, you might be able to be an instructor. Ride safe!



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Ride Baby Ride

On the road and in the wind.
 The rumble of the motor beneath me,
 the one I love in front of me.
 The undeniable feeling of freedom.
 Peace.
 And a knowing that all is right with the world
 comes over me.
 Even as we pull out of the drive,
 it is only a few yards
 Before I feel the stress leave me,
 and tranquility wash over me.
 We pass by cagers
 who don't have a clue.
 They look at our colors
 and just don't get it.
 If I have to explain,
 You wouldn't understand.
 Other bikers know what I mean.
 The feeling of belonging.
 Freedom.
 Acceptance.
 And exhilaration.
 The unspoken language
 of others clad in leather.
 The camaraderie that comes
 when you ride in a group.
 Even if you don't know
 them by name.
 Our close knit little group
 takes care of one another.
 We joke and laugh,
 tease and flirt,
 Console and wrench for one another.
 I've been called a biker bitch,
 although I don't see myself
 as the rough and tumble type
 that the name brings to mind.
 But it is a badge of honor.
 I am proud of who I am,
 who I ride with, and the respect such a title commands.
 Fear me! For I wear leather and ride.
 Respect me! 'Cause if you don't my bud's will see
 that you do.
 Don't piss me off! I will kick your ass.
 Don't mess with me or my friends - we are a force to
 be reckoned with
 and I got their back.
 I ride for pleasure
 never forgetting so many that are unable to.
 Always thankful
 for the sites seen and friends made.
 Always appreciative of the beauty
 encountered in our travels - created by Him
 and often overlooked by so many.
 Kat aka - Lucky's old lady