

ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT

Statistic: Every 66 hrs. a motorcyclist is killed, 36 are injured.

Someday you may be involved in or come upon a motorcycle accident. There are some things we can do even though we are not trained medical professionals. Start by taking a First Aid/CPR course. Once you have done that, here are a few more tips that may prove helpful.

1. Secure the accident scene. The goal is to prevent the victim from being run over by oncoming traffic. Redirect traffic around the victim if necessary. If possible, do not move the victim, but you can move the motorcycle if it presents an obstacle to smooth traffic flow.

2. If you have to go to a nearby house to call for help, remember that people are not willing to open their doors to strangers, especially "bikers". To minimize the fear, park your bike at the end of the driveway. Send the woman to the door only after she removes the leather jacket, helmet and other motorcycle related apparel. Do not ask to enter the house or use the phone. Let the homeowner make the call. Do not leave until the call is completed. The emergency operator may have additional questions.

3. At the scene, those who are trained in First Aid will be busy with the victim. You must assume there have been head and/or spinal injuries so do not remove the helmet. However, you can cut the strap to aid in breathing. If there are any objects lodged in the victim do not pull them out. They could be in or near a main artery and removing them could cause excessive bleeding.

4. Look around for signs of a second victim. There have been cases where victims have been left behind in a field or ditch because no one realized there were two people on the bike. Look. If you see a second helmet, a third shoe or a purse or anything that would indicate a 2nd person on the bike, search the area immediately.

5. Someone should write down as much as they know about the accident. What happened? (Rear-end, head-on, lay-down, side swipe) Where? Time? The more information you can give to the EMS workers, the easier it will be for them to help the victim.

6. Since we usually travel in groups, you should be able to form a "Safety Circle" around the victim. Hold hands and stand in a circle with your back to the victim. This shields him or her from the prying eyes of the crowd that usually gathers at the scene. The victim may not notice the circle at the time, but will be grateful later to know that half the town didn't see their underwear or whatever else was showing. The circle also tells traffic where not to drive.

7. Once the EMS arrives, listen to them. Do as they say. They need to concentrate on the victim and not the bystanders.

The above tips were compiled from a seminar given by Dick "Slider" Gilmore who teaches EMS workers nationwide and specializes in Accident Scene Management. I changed it slightly. Ride Safe



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MANAGEMENT



- SECURE THE SCENE
- CALL FOR HELP
- DO NOT REMOVE HELMET
- LOOK FOR SECOND VICTIM
- FORM A SAFETY CIRCLE
- WRITE DOWN FACTS
- LISTEN TO EMS