



THE DYNAMICS OF MOTORCYCLE CRASHES

Motorcycles have special operation characteristics that automobiles do not. The majority of motorcycles have dual braking controls, one for the front wheel and one for the rear wheel. One of the most important things Simon Law Group looks at in investigating motorcycle crashes aside from the actions of the other driver, is the braking or slowing of a motorcycle. Bringing a motorcycle to a stop requires a great deal of practice and experience. An average rider can stop in normal conditions with little or no problem. However, when an emergency situation arises, they are unable to properly control their motorcycle because they fully do not understand its braking capabilities. The most common mistake is failure to use the front brake. At Simon Law Group we have trained investigators and accident reconstructionists who can usually tell when only the rear brakes were applied. This is done through examination of the rear wheel skid mark. When braking is applied to only the rear wheel, the skid mark will be thick and dark with a width of usually over two inches.

It is very important to know that rear braking only contributes approximately 30% braking efficiency. If there is significant evidence of a rear brake skid mark, our investigators can determine that had the rider fully utilized the front brake the rider could have avoided or significantly reduced his speed which may be factor in determining fault in a motorcycle versus vehicle crash. By effectively using the front brake a rider can substantially reduce his speed and magnitude of injuries.

An experienced rider will know how to effectively apply the front brake to obtain maximum braking without locking the front wheel which is difficult to do unless and until the motorcycle is at a relatively low speed. This combined with the advent of anti-locking brakes, an experienced rider can obtain nearly 80% braking efficiency which a competent, experienced, accident investigator will be able to determine by noting or confirming a thin and light rear skid mark. Ultimately, a motorcycle will experience much greater stopping force if the brakes are applied without locking the wheels which in part leads to the skill level of the rider which ultimately could be a critical factor in a motorcycle injury lawsuit.

At Simon Law Group, as an experienced attorney and rider with over 20 years' experience, we are very familiar with the factors that can cause a motorcycle collision. There are issues involving steering, braking, controlling, and handling. It is important that you retain an attorney who is experienced in addressing all these issues and has the accident investigation team to properly and thoroughly analyze these issues. Call Simon Law Group at 480-745-2450 for a free consultation.