

## Why ABS on Motorcycles?

ABS, or anti-lock breaking systems, on motorcycles saves lives and prevents injuries. Even so, most motorcycle magazines and purchasers of new motorcycles pay scant attention to this important innovation.

Some claim ABS doesn't work, is dangerous, or is unnecessary (the latter because they are skilled riders and can overcome the conditions ABS is designed to protect against). Can we, even as skilled riders, always brake effectively on wet pavement, gravel roads, and paved roads with sand or gravel on them. Have you ever seen a motorcycle road test where a non-ABS motorcycle's brakes were tested under those types of road conditions? They consider those conditions too dangerous to expose their test riders to. Many police departments and state patrols have switched to ABS equipped motorcycles out of concern for officer safety. These officers are required to ride in all conditions, not just completely perfect, dry pavement. They want, and need, the extra protection ABS provides. Come to think of it, we don't ride in a perfect world where the pavement is forever dry and free of stuff that interferes with traction. Maybe ABS would be a good addition to the motorcycles we ride.

I'm always disappointed when I see a group of GL-1800s and only a very small percentage have ABS. There is really no excuse for a rider who is buying an expensive new road motorcycle today to buy one that doesn't have ABS. Riders who do not choose ABS are making a mistake; a mistake that could leave them unnecessarily in the hospital or worse.

If you're contemplating buying a new motorcycle, I recommend you seriously consider purchasing one that has three important letters on it: ABS. You will never regret it.

If you're not enrolled in the Rider Education program I encourage you to sign up. Level I only requires a commitment to ride safely. Levels II and III require First Aid/CPR and /or ERC. Contact me to make that commitment to ride safely.

Ken Dean

Rider Educator