



Motorcycle Trauma Response Best Practice

Summary Statement: The current state of EMS response to Motorcycle Trauma is inadequate. Funds should be allocated for development of better EMS protocols and increased training, especially for EMS and Motorcycle Rider Educators.

Problems/Solutions:

1. 911 call center Dispatchers have varying degrees of response with most centers recommending Head tilt -Chin lift and chest compressions for a non-breathing accident victim. This response could not only further injure the person but in some cases could even kill the injured victim.
Solution: Develop statewide dispatch recommendations and protocols specific to motorcycle crashes.
2. Some call centers have adopted a new recommendation by EMD (a national resource) that simply says: if the person is not breathing and is wearing a helmet, take it off. It does not identify the kind of helmet or give instruction how to remove the helmet.
Solution: Complete a study on one person helmet removal as well as ability to explain technique over the phone
3. EMTs are not required to learn helmet removal as part of their training.
Solution: Require EMT Basics to complete training on Motorcycle Trauma.
4. Motorcycle Safety Rider Education instructors are required to take CPR and First Aid but not motorcycle specific trauma training (though it is available). Since MC Safety instructors are often the first persons new riders are exposed to, their advice is relied upon as accurate. If Rider Educators are not educated in proper response they will likely give wrong or no advice.
Solution: Motorcycle Rider Coaches need to be trained in Motorcycle Specific Trauma Response.
5. While Wisconsin has had a program that teaches MC trauma for many years, the majority of people who have been trained have done so voluntarily and at their own expense (at full price). Approximately 6000 people have been trained over 12 years, a small fraction of the total registered riders in the state.
Solution: Do more to encourage motorcyclists to be trained

Supporting Theory: Haddon Matrix

Haddon Matrix is a model for disaster response. Much effort should be placed in preventing a disaster from occurring. *In the event that a disaster does occur, a plan must be in place for containment and minimization of the effects of the disaster.*

Accident Scene Management, Inc (ASMI) was established in 1996 to work with the Wisconsin D.O.T. in order to present a bystander program to motorcyclists as a pilot project. In only 5 classes, 375 motorcyclists were trained. Evaluations of the program ranked high with stories of usefulness being told less than one year later. To date ASMI has trained nearly 20,000 students, has instructors in 26 states and Australia, and is recognized as the North American leader in the topic of motorcycle trauma. ASMI is a partner in the motorcycle safety network meetings in Washington D.C., A professional member of the State Motorcycle Safety Association, and a member of the Wisconsin EMS Association. We have the only accredited motorcycle trauma educational program in the United States, training both motorcyclists and Emergency Responders at all levels.

ASMI and the Waukesha County 911 Dispatch Center organized a meeting of a cross section of interested parties in December of 2009 to discuss elements of a "Best Practice" for surviving a motorcycle Trauma. Fire Chiefs, Waukesha Co Emergency Medical Director, Dispatch Reps, ABATE, DOT motorcycle safety coordinator & ASMI instructors were in attendance. Four areas for improvement were discussed with proposals for how to improve each area. In February of 2010 a meeting was held in Madison with a representative of HHS and the DOT motorcycle rider education coordinator. Both representatives cited funding as issues for why Motorcycle Rider Coaches and EMS could not be trained. The Emergency Medical Dispatch is interested in changing protocols but they require some studies to be done first regarding helmet removal. In April 2010, a sample study was done at the Center for Injury Prevention at the VA crash test lab. The results were favorable, however, funding for the study would be around \$30,000.00 which has stalled that project. Motorcyclists continue to pay for their own training. Despite the difficult economy our rate of students trained has continued to be strong.

Wisconsin has lead this effort to improve outcomes for motorcyclists who have been in a crash. Our multi-faceted approach to reducing injuries and fatalities through rider education, motorist awareness, strengthening of laws, anti-impaired riding, and Bystander Care has made a difference but we can do better and we need help to get the best treatment and care. CPR & 911 are good but are not enough. The first 5-20 minutes are the most critical after a trauma and CPR should be cautiously considered for use on a motorcycle trauma due to concerns about neck and chest injuries.

information, testimonials, class curriculums and schedules visit:
www.roadguardians.org. Road Guardians is a social membership program owned by ASMI to help achieve our goals and encourage motorcyclists to engage in life long learning.



Accident Scene Management, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to reducing injuries or fatalities to motorcyclists through education.