

— HOUSTON MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT ATTORNEYS

Motorcycle Accidents in Texas

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



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– INTRODUCTION

Motorcycles Can Be Ridden All Year in Texas

For many people, nothing compares to the feeling of riding on a motorcycle. However, motorcycles are involved in an alarming number of accidents every year, many of them very serious and even deadly. Many of the things that make motorcycles so fun to ride, are the same things that make motorcycle accidents so dangerous.

If you or a loved one have been injured or killed in a motorcycle accident, you could be entitled to compensation. The attorneys of The de la Garza Law Group have thirty years of combined experience fighting for the rights of motorcyclists and helping them recover after an accident causes harm.

In Texas, motorcycles make up less than 2% of all registered vehicles but are involved in 14% of fatal crashes.



— PART ONE

Texas leads the nation in the number of fatal motorcycle accidents on its roadways

Several factors contribute to this statistic.

Texas is a large state with a big population. This means more bikes on the road and more land on which to ride them. Additionally, the weather in Texas is nice enough to allow for year-round riding.

Where do most motorcycle accident occur in Texas?

Harris County has the highest number of motorcycle accidents in Texas as well as the highest population. Harris County sees 6,157 accidents per year out from a population of 4,434,257 people. Bell County has the highest percentage of accidents by population with 825 accidents and a population of 330,859 people.

Motorcycle accidents often cause **significant injuries** to riders



Motorcycle accidents and injuries in Texas

Motorcycle accidents are one of the most dangerous types of vehicle crashes there are. This is because of the very thing that many riders love most about riding a bike: the open design offers no protection from an impact and helmets and other protective gear is not always mandated by law. In addition, riders are more likely to be thrown from the motorcycle in an accident, increasing the chances of catastrophic injury and death.

In 2018, Texas recorded 418 fatalities from motorcycle accidents (operators and passengers, but not occupants of other vehicles involved.) Many more motorcyclists sustained injuries, often serious.

In 2018, Texas motorcycle accident fatalities decreased 17% from 2017.

In 2017 there were 366,473 motorcycles registered in Texas. Texas had a total of 501 motorcycle accident fatalities and 2,103 serious injuries.

366,473

REGISTERED MOTORCYCLES

510

FATALITIES

2103

SERIOUS INJURIES

Wearing a helmet can save lives

Wearing a helmet while riding reduces death in an accident by 40 percent and can prevent head injuries in up to 70 percent of cases. Information shows that half of those killed in a motorcycle accident were not wearing a helmet. In Texas, helmets are not required by the law if the rider is over the age of 21.

From 2010 to 2017, there were 68,877 motorcycle-involved crashes in Texas, which averages, 8,610 crashes involving motorcycles each year during that time period.



**WEARING A HELMET REDUCES
DEATH IN A MOTORCYCLE
ACCIDENT BY 40 PERCENT**



*Fewer fatalities
when wearing a
helmet*



*Fewer head
injuries when
wearing a helmet*

— PART THREE

Common Injuries from Motorcycle Accidents

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the injuries that are more likely to be sustained in a motorcycle accident include:



Head Injuries

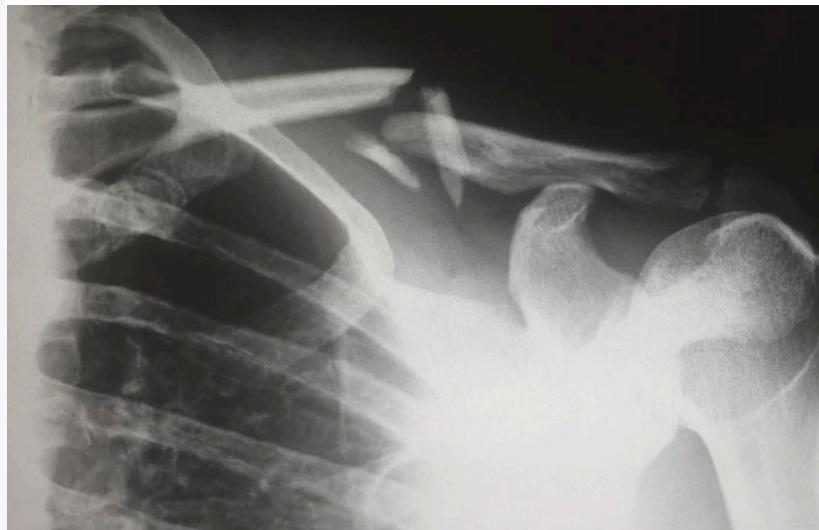
01

Head injuries and traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) are the most common injuries and can be fatal. The effects of concussions, contusions, skull fractures and other forms of TBI can be debilitating.

Broken Bones

02

The impact of an accident easily causes fractures that require surgery and long recovery times. Legs, ankles and feet can be crushed when a bike falls over and pins them underneath.





Back Injuries

03

Neck and spine injuries, such as a severed or damaged spinal cord, can cause paralysis and lifelong pain and disability.

Burns

04

Bikers suffer friction burns on the skin, also known as road rash, when they slide across the road in an accident. In addition to the severe pain road rash causes, these burns can easily become infected and cause major scarring.



Internal Injuries

05

The openness of a motorcycle and the likelihood of being thrown off in an accident contribute to internal injuries and bleeding. Blunt force trauma and penetration injuries commonly cause damage to internal organs.

Between 2010 and 2017,
15,901 riders sustained a
serious injury

— PART FOUR

What to Do After a Motorcycle Accident

After a motorcycle accident, the health and safety of you and anyone else involved should be the main focus. Get medical attention immediately, even if you assume your injuries are only minor. The true extent of injuries can take days to become apparent and waiting can make them worse.



After an Accident

- 01 | Get to safety
- 02 | Call 911 and get medical attention
- 03 | Get the names and contact information of everyone involved, including witnesses
- 04 | Photograph the scene and the damage
- 05 | Take notes about conditions or events that led to the accident
- 06 | Contact a motorcycle accident attorney before talking to the insurance company

– PART FIVE

Causes and Compensation

A big contributing factor to motorcycle accidents is the small size of the bike, which makes them difficult for other motorists to see, especially those who are not aware of bikes on the road or otherwise distracted. This is such a common reason for an accident that Texas created its own road-sharing motorcycle awareness campaign.

Other common causes include cars making left hand turns, alcohol use, speeding, and dangerous road conditions.



— COMPENSATION

Injured motorcyclists are potentially entitled to receive compensation for medical costs, lost wages, permanent disability or disfigurement, pain and suffering, property damage and more.

Texas is a modified comparative fault state, which means that a person must be less than 50 percent at fault in an accident in order to recover any damages. Damages are then reduced by the claimant's percentage of responsibility. For example, if someone is awarded \$100,000 and it is determined that they were 30 percent at fault they will ultimately receive \$70,000.

Helmet use again comes into play in comparative negligence. If a rider who did not wear a helmet was injured in a way that could have been prevented or lessened by wearing one, the rider will be found partly at fault.

Texas is a modified
comparative fault state

— PART FIVE

Talk to a Motorcycle Accident Attorney

After a motorcycle accident, the damages pile up quickly. The physical, emotional and financial losses are hard to recover from. Working with an experienced motorcycle accident attorney helps ensure that your case and your rights are protected.



Always a
personal
touch

TALK TO AN ATTORNEY

An attorney will investigate the accident and collect evidence that could be needed in a case as well as being mindful of time constraints and legal guidelines.

The attorney team at The de la Garza law group has 30 years in combined experience and are ready to help after you or a loved one have been hurt in a motorcycle accident. Schedule a free initial consultation by calling us at 713-784-1010.

We work on a contingency fee basis. If we do not recover compensation for you, you will not pay us anything.

If your injuries prevent you from easily coming to our Houston offices, a home or hospital room visit can be arranged. At The de la Garza Law Group, every case is personal. Our attorneys are happy to accommodate you after your accident.



Some Texas accident lawyers are more interested in taking on as many cases as they can, settling them quickly, and then moving on to the next case. At The de la Garza Law Group, we never use this churn-and-burn strategy because it goes against the very foundation of our firm.

We believe that the true measure of success is not just about the amount of money we can recover for our clients and their families, but about the impact we have on our clients' lives.

713.784.1010 OR TOLL FREE **844.784.1010**



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