

# ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT CLASS



## 'A Crash Course For The Motorcyclist'

Coming up on a wreck ~ motorcycle or otherwise, can be daunting ~ even scary... especially for someone with no training in what to do or NOT do. It can be intimidating to think that you might be in a situation where you are the only person who can help a victim until EMTs arrive. On the surface, we all like to think we would instinctively know what to do to help. But when the shit hits the fan ... Would you?

Wanting to help is good. Knowing how to help is better. That's what Trauma Mama, Registered Nurse Teresa McClelland, teaches in this day-long seminar. She is an ER Trauma Nurse with 24+ years of experience. She's been teaching Accident Scene Management for 10 years. She's been training Trauma Nurses and EMTs for 17 years; including skills specific to motorcycle accident scenes. She is also the State Safety Officer for ABATE of Arizona. She's been riding for 33 years. She emphasizes that it doesn't matter how much riding experience you have, something can happen.



She encourages everyone to 'Dress For The Slide'; referencing the riders we've all seen out there ... on their bikes wearing shorts, sandals, & nothing to protect them from the road.

The seminar we attended was the Basic curriculum, held on

Sunday August 14 at the Breyer Law Office in Phoenix. Teresa's teaching team included Assistant Instructor Ben Martinez and EMT Scott Runde, an ASM Instructor Trainee.

Often, the first people to be on the scene of a motorcycle wreck are fellow motorcyclists. The first 5-30 minutes after a crash are crucial; as you wait for EMTs to arrive. Having some idea ahead of time of do's and don'ts can give the victim[s] a better chance of survival plus give you the confidence to do what can be done.

The class was full, with 26 students. This is a good number to allow everyone the best access to the material in the given time.

There was a wide range of ages. Some were representatives of their riding organizations... who will then take information back to share with their larger groups. Others were medical personnel, as part of their continuing education. Others were simply individual riders who want to be prepared in case of an emergency. This class teaches what is called 'Bystander Level Assistance'... techniques that people without a medical background can use.

As the flyer states, this is more than just 'First Aid'. You are learning how to safely assist victims without adding to any injuries they might have; plus methods to ensure that rescuers stay safe as well.

One of the first topics discussed was a presentation by Mark Breyer about the Good Samaritan Law. One of the biggest reasons that people don't help at an accident scene is that they are afraid they'll get sued. He broke the law down by its elements to explain and disperse those concerns.

But this isn't just a student - teacher

lecture. There are hands-on exercises to go through. Each person gets the opportunity to go through the exercises / topics being discussed.

I'm not afraid to admit, starting off ~ the Hands-On exercises took me through some emotional reactions... The classroom setting can become a real-life scenario in your mind. WHAT IF...??? But that's something you also want to be mentally prepared for at a true emergency.

A particular exercise that stood out for me was whether I could move someone out of danger if I had to. Being a shorter woman faced with moving a larger man to safety, I was pretty amazed to see that with Teresa's guidance I was able to do so.

Other topics include securing the accident scene, assessing possible injuries so you can share that information with the 911 operator, assess the scene ~ determining whether or not to move the injured, proper helmet removal ~ when & how to do it, rescue breathing methods when spinal injury is of concern, addressing external vs internal bleeding, and more.

There is far too much information offered in the class to go into specifics here. Leave it to say that it is a long & fulfilling day... one that everyone should make the time to attend. This is first-level training. Believe me, I know that I don't know everything I need to know in an emergency. But this class is the first important step toward being more able to help if you find yourself in such a situation.

Thanks go out to class sponsor Breyer Law for the use of their space, and for your informational presentation. They also provided water, coffee, donuts, bagels, and lunch. Breyer Law is also a big sponsor of AMSAF {AZ Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Foundation}.

The Accident Scene Management Course {ASM} is the #1 Rated Trauma Training Course in the Country. Classes are currently being taught in 32 states around the country.

You can sign up for these classes and learn more about Accident Scene Management and the Road Guardians organization that created these classes, by visiting their website at <http://accidentscene.org> or <https://roadguardians.org/>

Thank you, Trauma Mama, for the opportunity to share information about this important class with our readers.

*Betsy & Bruce*