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## Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457722)**

by **Haynes** on August 3rd, 2009, 10:45 am

*bigb wrote:*..... But if you want to, as one of the many NOOBS said on this page, start a class action lawsuit with one proposed claim then good luck. That means all the true believers would commit perjury based on this thread and Haakon's reinforcement based on a wiring glitch. ....

bigb, Good sound argument.

I don't think that anyone intends to hang BMW out to dry on this but they certainly expect some transparency in the investigation and the subsequent presentation of statistics of failure rates. If the investigation shows that the failures are a result of misuse, everyone will have to accept the outcome but if BMW demonstrates unwillingness to co-operate, we are bound to remain sceptical of their intentions and will continue to pursue an acceptable conclusion.

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457749)**

by **ThorH** on August 3rd, 2009, 6:23 pm

*Dan Neelands wrote:*I hope the NHTSA follows this thread and understands that at a bare minimum some of would like to make a life-safety decision of whether to replace our forks or not. This is about safety first and liability second. When I'm going down the road at 65mph I don't care a whit who should be shelling out. I care if my equipment holds together.

Dan

Maybe we should all give Mr Jan Urbahn ((201) 571-5360) a call and ask. Being the General Manager for Safety Engineering & Intelligent Transportation Systems, I am sure he will understand our concerns and provide a clear answer.

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## **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457752)**

by **maddog** on August 3rd, 2009, 8:38 pm

*bigb wrote:* But a concerned NOOB routinely every week until someone dies does not prove anything.

B:

We have certainly had our disagreements in the past, but you need to put this on your sig line.

Maddog

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## **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457789)**

by **jasonsawyer** on August 4th, 2009, 5:16 am

All silly user status rankings and noob trashing aside, this "NOOB" still wants to know if there's a problem or not. Crashing hurts.

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## **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457815)**

by **bigb** on August 4th, 2009, 10:00 am

*jasonsawyer wrote:*All silly user status rankings and noob trashing aside, this "NOOB" still wants to know if there's a problem or not. Crashing hurts.

So far we have this:

One known complaintant who drives 45mph over unknown potholes in Africa, and has film of her leading two men driving bikes behind her.

Then the film loops a couple of times and she is seen picking her self up off the ground, all filmed real time (assumed).

And then another film afterwards on USA roads when telescopic ends cracks around a high force hairpin turn and she wrecks again. Views of her laying on the ground in 360 degrees around her and close ups of her swollen and skint up wrist.

Does one event have anything to do with the other? You be the judge. The complaintant sees no relationship in events.

The complaintant assumes the high speed potholes is normal wear and tear, and from eyeballing it, it was verified safe.

The 60mph sharp smooth road curve may have been assumed to be too much pressure however for the defective AL fork ends. I'm not exactly sure of the logic, if there is any, except BMW sold a bike that should handle all situations all the time.

>> NOTE: IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, BE AFRAID, ... BE VERY AFRAID!!

I hit a pothole and Home Depot parking lot that creased two front Dakota steel mags at about 10 mph, while I was distracted from an oncoming car (I got my money from HD ). Haakon says something about being discounted only because its a pussy offroad bike. So although I'm not sure what this means exactly, I respect him and I'll hold my final judgement until I do understand him (better).

Its starting to look like a class action suit. Bring your cameras when you ride, and post your film here.

WHO'S NEXT??

HAAKON HAS CURSED ME!!

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## **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457821)**

by **grandevox** on August 4th, 2009, 12:19 pm

*jasonsawyer wrote:*All silly user status rankings and noob trashing aside, this "NOOB" still wants to know if there's a problem or not. Crashing hurts.

IMHO. The chances of a fork failure is pretty small, however the chances seem to increase greatly if you ride aggressively off road. BMW (or maybe Showa, the suppliers of the forks) redesigned the forks found on later models, this might be in response to fork failures, or not.

As far as I can see (and my view is the same as yours-from data available in this thread) the percentage of fork failures is extremely small when you look at the number of F-650's on the road vs. the actual number of bikes that have had fork failures.

YMMV.

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457839)**

by **WayneC** on August 4th, 2009, 11:17 pm

To put the record straight for BigB

Sales 2000 to 2002 prior to fork redesign - 47,000 total - Source BMW Annual Reports

Markets in order 2001 - Germany, USA, Italy, France, UK, Spain, rest of world

Markets in order 2002 - Germany, Italy, USA, France, Spain, UK, rest of world  
Source BMW Annual Reports

USA - 4000, Australia 600, Sth Africa - 500

Some of the known failures with forum usernames

2000 - EU - 5 failures - All 5 Court Cases now settled

2001 - Argentina - Gertarg - Accident - Machine write off - Spinal Injuries

2003 - Australia - WayneC - Accident - No permanent Injuries

2004 - USA - Jim Tussey - Accident - Machine write off - Multiple Fractures

2005 - USA - GidyupGirl - Accident - Not Seriously Injured

2005 - USA - LoudAl - Accident - Machine write off - Bruising & Abrasions

2006 - Canada - WildWilly - Accident - No serious Injuries

2007 - UK - GMR-Staffs - Cracks found during maintenance

2007 - UK - Andy80 - Accident - Machine write off - No permanent injuries

2008 - USA - Name Withheld - Accident - No permanent Injuries

2008 - USA - RB - Accident - Machine write off - Fractured arm & other injuries

2008 - USA - sgk3 - Accident - Machine write off - Fractured arm & other injuries

Date Unclear - UK - foodle - Accident - Machine write off - No permanent Injuries

7 other failures noted in insurance assessment work in Australia referred to safety authorities

The partial list above which has been compiled from public sources is by itself well beyond what any Safety Authority would regard as acceptable. There will be many more buried in insurance write offs

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## **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457857)**

by **bigb** on August 5th, 2009, 4:23 am

To set the record straight? What record, web forum minutia? That and \$3 will get you a cup of coffee.

There is no way to prove anything from past cases unless you are omnipotent. Are you God??

Is that your grounds for a class action suit? Have you found any lawyers willing to risk their time and money?

Have you found anyone or the web rats, including Claudia who would risk their money yet?

Just exactly what does the C stand for Wayne?

For an interested bystander, you sure are wasting a lot of your time as though you represent (or even may be) Claudia.

Just what is your interests WayneC? Are you Mr. Altruism, or are you supposed to be looking for some intercontinental leg?

Hint - awe, never mind.

I would have considered it a miracle that I just got back from Africa without a tow. Also, I saw at least one web personality on your list noted cracks internally upon inspection (and that was no accident to LOOK for cracks): exactly what should have taken place after the African trip. But maybe this is presumptuous for someone inexperienced enough to be riding unknown potholes in Africa at 45mph sitting on their can adjusting their camera to capture them leading the pack. Worried about the wrong thing...

Everyone has to learn somehow someday. Every Web personality on your list knows darn well why whatever happened to them happened (evidently anything that happened on a BMW will be put into a MEGA Class Action Suit), or they would have done something before. And they evidently aren't doing anything now. If so, the first thing a lawyer would say is quit posting on the web: it can only hurt your case - period. USEFUL Legal Notices are Short and Succinct; and ALWAYS after the fact of a relevant JUDGEMENT.

HAVE a GOOD ONE Wayne, or is it C?

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457859)**

by **ThumpAspen** on August 5th, 2009, 4:37 am

Wayne, thanks for staying on top it and keeping your composure in the midst of a miniscule yet determined peanut gallery. I think I can safely speak for many when I say your diligence is appreciated.

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457864)**

by **patobravo** on August 5th, 2009, 4:52 am

*ThumpAspen wrote:* Wayne, thanks for staying on top it and keeping your composure in the midst of a miniscule yet determined peanut gallery. I think I can safely speak for many when I say your diligence is appreciated.

+1

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457879)**

by **ThorH** on August 5th, 2009, 6:50 am

These sales figures are quite interesting. Most of the customers in the large European markets are commuter types who never leave the pavement. If there still have been instances, we will probably never know as they don't hang out on bike forums either.

@BigB: You have made your views known. If you had behaved more like your mother thought you, you might even have carried some weight. Unfortunately you tend to come across as a stupid drunken bully. Repeating the same arguments, based on wrong assumptions, doesn't bring us any further. You may now consider yourself excused from this discussion. Heck, why don't you just pack up leave our camp fire and find some other to piss in?

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457888)**

by **bigb** on August 5th, 2009, 7:50 am

*ThorH wrote:*These sales figures are quite interesting. Most of the customers in the large European markets are commuter types who never leave the pavement. If there still have been instances, we will probably never know as they don't hang out on bike forums either.

@BigB: You have made your views known. If you had behaved more like your mother thought you, you might even have carried some weight. Unfortunately you tend to come across as a stupid drunken bully. Repeating the same arguments, based on wrong assumptions, doesn't bring us any further. You may now consider yourself excused from this discussion. Heck, why don't you just pack up leave our camp fire and find some other to piss in?

Repeating the same unanswered arguments? Skeptics forever sought for the truth from both sides of an issue, much like Socrates. At least we now see the basis of the whole movement: about 8 ADV thread members with some kind of beef against BMW, and some unknown UK suit settled in 2000(?).

My, we are closer to the truth. Unfortunately, there is no way to prove what has been proposed if it has not been done so by now (there are no time-reverse boots). Falsifying loose facts is a psychological game with no rewards - a lose/lose scenario. But just for you, I will leave your camp fire. I personally have found all the relevant truths of many pages of threads. I do not intend to be in the class action suit; and I personally detest scare tactics.

Thor, ... "we will probably never know"... (duh) NO, you WILL never know... web rat.

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## **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457900)**

by **pinkpank** on August 5th, 2009, 9:02 am



Wow. I wasn't even aware of this discussion. Thanks for keeping it alive. And best wishes and healing to everyone that's had this failure.

One question comes to mind: Are there *\*any\** reported failures of a late-model (updated, beefed-up) fork?

When I bought my MY2005 F650GS, I wondered about that front fork. Most bikes I know have the axle mounted to the *\*bottom\** of the fork tube (Buell, various Hondas, Triumph - tho mostly standard/sport bikes). Only my 1983 Suz\*k\* GS650L and another old BMW have the axle on top of the tube (but I haven't researched it exhaustively). This arrangement would seem to cause a lot of shear stress on the metal below it, which is not inherently very thick/strong laterally since it's a tube. But I'm no structural engineer.

Since a used bike may have had front forks replaced, I was glad to see that mine are the newer type:

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(<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=2002966&id=534899791>)

TIA

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457901)**

by **rreynold6** on August 5th, 2009, 9:06 am

As owner of an early ('02) GS, I'm concerned about this issue and I'm a little puzzled as to why BigB has his panties in a wad when all we are trying to do is gather info and discuss possible courses of action. Thanks for all the info folks! Keep it coming.

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### **Re: Catastrophic F650GS Fork Failure (#p457903)**

by **RevJVegas** on August 5th, 2009, 9:15 am

Its the internet.

any time you mix discussion topics with differing opions and viewpoints you're going to get

Especially if the topic goes over 10 pages. I think the odds are inversely proportional or something.

Opinions aside, and as the owner of a 2003, I'm curious to see how this "investigative query" is going to play out.

I seriously doubt they'll be any sort of recall, but still curious to see what happens.

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