



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-026
Date Opened: 5/18/2009
Principal Investigator: *Bob Young*
Subject: Motorcycle front wheel separation

Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW)
Products: BMW 2000-2004 F650GS-Series motorcycles
Population: 6,136 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Full or partial front wheel separation when fork axle lug fails.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	TBD	3
Crashes/Fires:	3	TBD	3
Injury Incidents:	3	TBD	3
# Injuries:	3	TBD	3
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	*	Confidential	Confidential

*Description of Other: See "Summary" below.

Action: Open this PE.

Investigator: *Bob Young*

Date: 05/18/2009

Div. Chief: *Richard Boyd*

Date: 05/18/2009

Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter*

Date: 05/18/2009

Summary: Between August 15 and December 26, 2008, apparently prompted by a 8-9-08 web forum posting by "redbaroness" (<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?t=371650>), ODI has received five vehicle owner questionnaires (including one from "redbaroness") alleging full or partial front wheel separation occurred when the fork's axle retaining lug failed. This photo shows redbaroness' front fork with the missing axle lugs after her crash.

Of the five VOQs, three U.S., one British, and an Australian owner were involved. In Feb '09, Superbike magazine published an article about "redbaroness'" incident. There have been other web forum postings alleging unconfirmed fork lug failures. Finally, an EWR field report duplicates one of our U.S. VOQs.

To learn more about this subject, and BMW's response to it, we are opening this PE.



Sent by E-mail to BMWUSA on 5-21-09 @ ~3:00 PM