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This is a copy of your Report to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission submitted on 2/28/2014

Incident Details

VQ-10582765-9558

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Report Submitted Date: 2/28/2014

Who You Are: Consumer

Incident Description: Kawasaki EN-500 (2007)- Sudden Engine Failure at Highway Speeds

I was riding without a passenger on an Interstate highway at normal highway speed (65-70 mph) and the exhaust suddenly popped a couple of times and the engine died without warning. This is extremely dangerous as a vehicle following me could collide with me as I slowed. The first time this occurred I was able to make an emergency exit to the shoulder of the highway (on a bridge). Panicked, I stood up, popped the fuel cap open, checked inside the fuel tank for gasoline. The tank was almost full. I moved the fuel valve to the reserve position, bypassing the normal fuel flow. (**Important: "I stood up.") I sat back down tried to start the engine and it started and ran well until the engine died again suddenly several miles down the road. I thought the fuel tank air vent must be plugged because each time the engine died I would open the fuel cap, etc. and it would start and run fine. The problem continued several times at high speeds over several days. I finally discovered that under certain driving conditions fuel did not flow from the fuel tank to the engine (carbs). I could never repeat the engine failure unless I was sitting on the motorcycle. I eventually realized the reason for the sudden loss of engine power was simple.

The rubber fuel line from the fuel tank to the carbs was routed over a frame member at the rear of the fuel tank and the seat sat on top of the rubber fuel line. I could duplicate my engine failure by sitting forward on the seat, thereby pinching the fuel line and stopping the flow of fuel to the engine. I added spacers to the frame that would support the front of the seat off of the fuel line and I have never again had an engine failure.

I suspect this could explain motorcycle accidents caused by sudden slowing in traffic on a highway and being rear ended. Subsequent engine tests would find nothing, e.g., must be operator error?

Incident Date: 9/30/2008 This is an estimate

Incident Location: Street or Highway - Interstate Highway 37 on Nueces River Bridge, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78413, United States

Victim Details

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Injury Information: Incident, No Injury

Victim is of Hispanic/Latino origin? No

Race: White

Other Race/Ethnicity:

My Relationship to Victim: Self

Gender: Male

Age when incident occurred: 64 Years

Address: [REDACTED], Corpus Christi, Texas, [REDACTED] United States

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Product Details

Product Description: 2007 Kawasaki Motorcycle EN-500 black

Product Category: Sports and Recreation

Product Type: Other

Brand Name: Kawasaki

Manufacturer / Importer / Private Labeler Name: Kawasaki

Manufacturer / Importer / Private Labeler Name:

Model Name or Number: 2007 Kawasaki Motorcycle EN-500 black

Serial Number: JKAENVC187A [REDACTED]

Date Manufactured:

Manufacturer: See VIN

Date Code:

Manufacturer Address: Not specified

Address:

Manufacturer Website URL:

Website URL:

Manufacturer Phone Number:

Retailer: Cycle Plaza

Retailer State: Texas

Additional Details

Purchase Date: 2/1/2007 This date is an estimate

I still have the product in my possession. Yes

The product was damaged before the incident. No

The product was modified before the incident. No

Have you contacted the manufacturer? No

If not, do you plan to contact No

them?

Explanation:

Your Contact Information

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Corpus Christi, Texas, [REDACTED] United States

E-mail [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Consent

May we include your Report, including any documents or photographs that you have attached to your Report, but without your name and contact information, in CPSC's Public Database? Yes, you may include my Report with any attachments on SaferProducts.gov.

May we release your name and contact information to the product manufacturer / importer / private labeler identified in your Report? Yes, you may release my name and contact information to the product manufacturer / importer / private labeler.

I certify that I have reviewed the Report and that the information provided in this Report is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. Yes

OMB Control Number 3041-0146