



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-031  
Date Opened: 06/21/2007  
Principal Investigator: *Bob Young*  
Subject: Motorcycle fires

Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW)  
Products: BMW 2000-2007 R-Series motorcycles  
Population: 59,045 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Motorcycle oil-fed fires allegedly due to melted oil level sight glass.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

|                     | ODI | Manufacturer | Total        |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Complaints:         | 1   | 0            | 1            |
| Crashes/Fires:      | 1   | 0            | 1            |
| Injury Incidents:   | 0   | 0            | 0            |
| # Injuries:         | 0   | 0            | 0            |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0   | 0            | 0            |
| # Fatalities:       | 0   | 0            | 0            |
| Other*:             | 0   | Confidential | Confidential |

\*Description of Other: EWR field report copies for reporting code "23-Fire"

Action: Open this PE.

Investigator: *Bob Young*

Date: 06/21/2007

Div. Chief: *Richard Boyd*

Date: 06/21/2007

Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter*

Date: 06/21/2007

Summary: ODI is aware of alleged subject vehicle fire-events apparently due to a melted oil level sight "glass" during periods of extended engine idling. Oil drains from the engine crankcase, through the melted sight glass. It then coats the exhaust system (including the catalytic converter) and ignites. This scenario is also described in a (confidential) number of field reports provided to NHTSA by BMW pursuant to the EWR requirements. To learn more about these allegations, we have opened this PE.

Sent by E-mail to BMWNA, 6-21-07 @ 10:06PM