

A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania Responds to the Roethlisberger Accident

First and foremost, our concerns are for a speedy and complete recovery for Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in Pittsburgh on June 5th.

Based on the reported facts, it appears that an automobile turned left into the path of Mr. Roethlisberger's motorcycle, which had the right of way. Mr. Roethlisberger was not licensed to operate the motorcycle or ride without a helmet. Both parties have been issued citations.

This unfortunate accident is a classic example of the hazardous situations that A.B.A.T.E. of PA has been concerned about for years. Inattentive motorists raise the hazard level to motorcyclists, who also put themselves at risk if they are not properly trained and licensed.

There has been much public and media speculation about whether Pennsylvania's present helmet law is adequate. At the present time, motorcyclists over the age of twenty-one who have either had their motorcycle license for two years or who have completed the state's Motorcycle Safety Program course may decide whether to wear a helmet or not.

A helmet would not have prevented this or any other accident. When a motorcyclist and a larger vehicle collide, the motorcyclist inevitably loses.

There is only one sure way to emerge from a motorcycle accident without injury, and that is to prevent the accident from occurring in the first place. A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania believes that accident prevention and avoidance are more important to significantly reducing injuries and fatalities than any mandatory equipment laws.

We continue to urge all motorcyclists to take Pennsylvania's Motorcycle Safety Course, which is free to attendees and financed entirely by motorcyclists themselves.

We urge PennDOT to expand on its recent efforts to promote motorcycle awareness within the driving community at large.

We urge all motorists to remember there are more motorcycles on the road than ever, and to be watchful for them.

A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania will continue to monitor the situation as it develops and update this article as necessary.