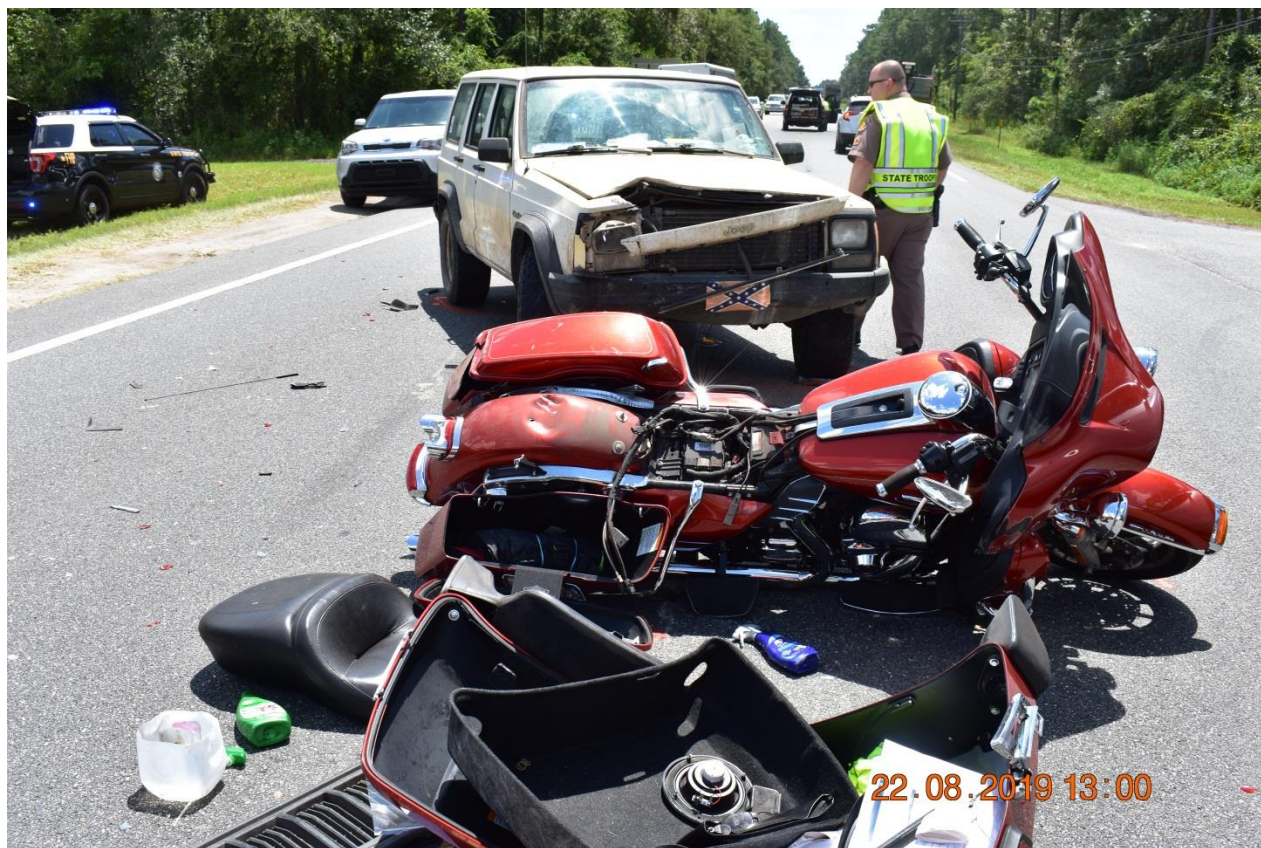


Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated! However, as I author this article, I must say, I feel like I have been hit by a truck. Well, at least a 1996 Jeep Cherokee.



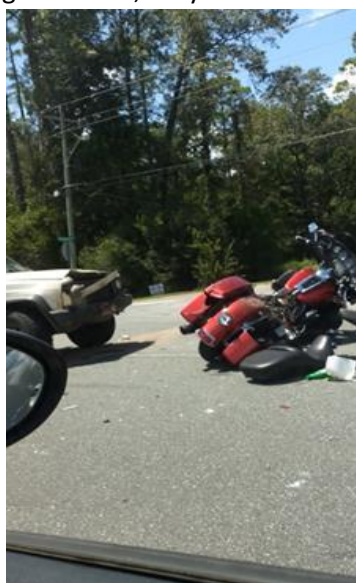
ATGATT saved my life! Since I can speak with the firsthand knowledge based on experience, I want to share that experience with others. ATGATT means All the Gear All the Time. It includes a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, a long sleeve shirt, durable pants, over the ankle shoes, and full fingered gloves.

*(Editor's note: SMARTER recommends full motorcyclist specific riding gear including armored jacket and pants.)*

I have heard people say that if they were traveling long distances, they would wear all the gear. I have also heard all the excuses not to wear all the gear.

My ride home from lunch was a seven-minute, 4.3-mile ride I have made on many occasions. Prior to lunch, and beard trimmed so at least I went to the hospital stopped northbound on US 319 near Crawfordville, into my subdivision. While stopped, I was rear above-mentioned Jeep.

Most of what I will tell you about the crash is from what others have told me as I have no recollection of the crash. The Jeep driver told the investigator that her brakes did not work. The skid marks laid down before the Jeep slammed into the rear of my motorcycle proves that statement was a lie.



mile ride. It is a I got my haircut looking good! I Florida to turn left ended by the

what others have Concussions do that her brakes Jeep slammed statement was a

My habit is to constantly check my mirror while I am stopping and while I am stopped to be prepared to react in case someone behind me is not also stopping. My lack of memory prevents me from telling you why I did not respond appropriately but my experience with habits means that I had to see her approaching. That might explain the underwear. More about that in a moment.

The crack in the back of my helmet tells the story of the impact to my head and what the result would have been had I not that short trip. I have three quarter, and a wearing the modular that has become my go- the front and the sides prevented further along with the skull certainly taken place.

I have two abrasions on the knuckles of the meet the hand. There holes from the slide gloves which are lined wonder what would been wearing gloves.

Although I met the for long sleeves, after rash on my lower back, I lightweight riding jacket of my wardrobe when riding. It would have also protected me from the hot asphalt, because I was not permitted to get up until EMS arrived to pick me up and I burned just a bit. In fact, that was the only pain I remember from the crash!

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I ended up with two cracked vertebra, three broken ribs, a concussion, several abrasions, and a sore leg where the bike fell onto it after the crash. Had I not observed ATGATT, there is no doubt that I would not be here to write this article. So, let me reinforce to all of you ALL THE GEAR ALL THE TIME! Do not be lulled into a false sense of security because of the shortness of your trip or the road you are on at the time.

One final note, the insurance company is reimbursing me for my prescription eyeglasses, helmet, gloves, and the shirt and pants, which were cut off by EMS. We were in the ambulance so as not to traumatize the neighbors. I still haven't found my underwear.

Mark D. Welch



been wearing it during three helmets: half-shell, modular helmet. I was helmet at the time as to helmet. Scratches on of the helmet indicate it injuries during the crash fracture that would have

my left hand, both where index finger and thumb are two corresponding worn through my leather with Kevlar. It makes me have happened had I not

minimum requirements putting up with the road am in the market for a that will become a part