

SAFETY CORNER

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BRAKE SYSTEM

by Charlie B

The most important system on your motorcycle is the braking system. Brake system preventive maintenance consists of more than checking pad wear.

When you check your brake system, you should be asking yourself these questions: Do I have leaks in the lines, the calipers or the master cylinders? Do my rotors have cracks? Does it have excessive vibration when I apply the brakes at speed? Does the ABS work? Does the brake fluid need to be changed? Yes, that is part of brake system maintenance. It is often overlooked and can be very costly to fix if neglected.

The reason fluid changes are necessary is moisture. Brake fluid, over time, draws in moisture that will cause corrosion in the moving parts of the system. This is where it gets expensive! To change a ABS module that is locked up because of corrosion is around \$1500.00, depending on the model of bike. Master cylinders and calipers are not exactly cheap either. Failure of these parts could also cost you your life!! Read that last sentence again!!!

Harley recommends you do a system flush every 20,000 miles or two years. The very best way to do this is take it to the dealership. They have techs that have training in this. They also have the computer software that makes the ABS system run while doing the flush that removes all of the old fluid from the module and the entire system.

Due to the length constraints of this article, I'll be explaining the second best way to do this at the October meeting.

