

Airbag System

GL1800DA

This section describes some important safety precautions. For airbag system components and features, see “Airbag System.” ➤ P. 64

The airbag system is an integral part of your motorcycle and is covered by your new vehicle warranty.

The most important things you need to know about your airbag are:

- The airbag has a limited but very important role.
 - The airbag can reduce the severity of injuries and help save your life in certain severe frontal impacts. It cannot prevent all injuries or deaths that can occur in a crash, and some crashes are too severe for any safety feature or system to prevent death.
- The airbag is designed to deploy in a severe head-on or nearly head-on frontal impact. The impact can be with another vehicle or an object, such as a concrete highway barrier. A severe frontal impact is one in which the rider would be thrown forward off the front of the motorcycle.

- The airbag might deploy in a severe angled frontal collision, or in a sideswipe, or if the motorcycle underrides the rear of another vehicle.

However, because there are many variables in a collision, the airbag might not be able to reduce the severity of injuries to the rider.

- The airbag might deploy if the front tire drops into a sharp depression, such as a pothole, or strikes a hard raised object, such as a curb.
 - A brief high rate of deceleration can cause the airbag to deploy, even though it would not be needed.
- The airbag is designed to help protect the rider.
 - It is not designed to help protect a passenger.
- The airbag is not intended to replace a helmet.
 - Helmets have proven effective in reducing the severity of head injuries in all types of crashes. So always wear a helmet, and make sure a passenger wears one as well.

There are several situations in which the motorcycle airbag should not deploy. Four of the more common situations are discussed here.

- If a rider is traveling at a moderate speed and has a minor frontal collision, such as running into the rear of a car slowing down ahead, or stopped at a traffic light, the rate of deceleration should be low enough for the rider to either stay on the motorcycle or receive less than severe injuries to the head or chest.
- Being struck in the side or rear by another vehicle can result in very serious injuries. But since the sensors are attached to the frame, such a crash cannot be detected by the sensors. Therefore, the airbag should not deploy, and it would not be helpful to the rider even if it did deploy.
- Another situation that should not result in airbag deployment is if the motorcycle slides out and goes down on a slippery surface. Again, the crash would not be detected or determined to be a severe frontal impact, and the airbag would not benefit the rider even if it did deploy.