January 5, 2025

Death Wobble

We all have seen videos of the “Death Wobble” when your handlebars shake so bad they can slap your tank. Let’s look at a few scenarios that can cause the Death Wobble and what we can do if we find ourselves in that situation.

Here are some causes of what can induce a Death Wobble.

1. Hitting a bump or rut at high speeds.
2. Coming down from doing a wheelie.
3. High speeds in high winds
4. Loose or damaged Neck Bearing on any kind of bike.

So, what can we do if we find ourselves experiencing the Death Wobble. The good news is there is one solution to all of them.

1.The first thing is to stay calm.

2. Do not grab your front brake even though it seems like a logical thing to do, it will cause more instability.

3.Relax your grip on the controls, if you tighten up it will only make things worse.

4. Lean forward on the tank as much as possible and the bike will settle itself.

5. In the case of a loose neck bearing the procedure is the same. This is a maintenance item that you should consult your owner’s manual to see the scheduled maintenance on it.

Ride Safe,

Andrew Trapani

ALR DOC Safety Officer