# Taking Care of the Unexpected

## General Guidelines

If something goes wrong during a ride, the first thing to do is stop as soon as you safely can. Do not continue riding if you have a flat tire, or you hear an unusual noise, or your motorcycle just doesn't feel right. If you continue riding, you could cause more damage and endanger your own safety.

After a stop, take time to assess the situation. Carefully inspect your motorcycle to identify the problem, then consider your options before you decide what to do.

If a problem is relatively minor and you have the tools, supplies, and skills to make a permanent repair, you may be able to fix it on the trail and continue riding. Or, you may be able to make a temporary repair that allows you to slowly ride back to your base where you can make a permanent repair or get help.

When a problem is more serious – or you don't have the tools, supplies, experience, or time to deal with it – you need to choose the safest way to get yourself and your motorcycle back to base. For example, if you are close enough, you (or you and another person) might be able to push it back.

Whatever the problem, the most important rules are:

• Always put personal safety first.