



Two men die in Wyoming motorcycle accidents

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An Alabama man and a Pennsylvania man are dead after unrelated motorcycle accidents on a Wyoming highway last week after attending the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Larry E. Gibson, 50, was southbound on U.S. Highway 85 in Weston County when his motorcycle went off the right side of the roadway on Friday, according to Sgt. Stephen Townsend with the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

After the bike, a Harley-Davidson, left the road it vaulted into the air. Both Gibson and a passenger were thrown from the bike, according to Townsend.

The crash occurred at approximately 3:30 p.m. Friday about eight miles north of Newcastle. Gibson, who was wearing a helmet, was pronounced dead at 4:42 p.m. at Weston County Memorial Hospital.

Anita L. Gibson, the passenger, was treated at the hospital.

Both were from Wilsonville, Ala.

Weldon T. Butler, 61, was southbound on the same highway Friday when his Harley-Davidson drifted off the right side of the roadway, Townsend said.

The motorcycle struck a post and fell onto the pavement.

The accident occurred at approximately 6 p.m. about 32 miles north of Lusk in Niobrara County.

Butler, who was not wearing a helmet, was pronounced dead at 7:40 p.m. at Niobrara County Hospital in Lusk.

It is unknown why both motorcycles went off the roadway, according to Townsend.

A total of 82 people have died in traffic accidents on Wyoming highways this year.

The 71st Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, which hundreds of thousands of bike enthusiasts attend each year, was from Aug. 8 through Aug. 14.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol reported four fatalities — three in Sturgis and one in Rapid City — as of Saturday morning.