

Thunder Press

Thunder Pants - News Briefs
February 2012 Issue

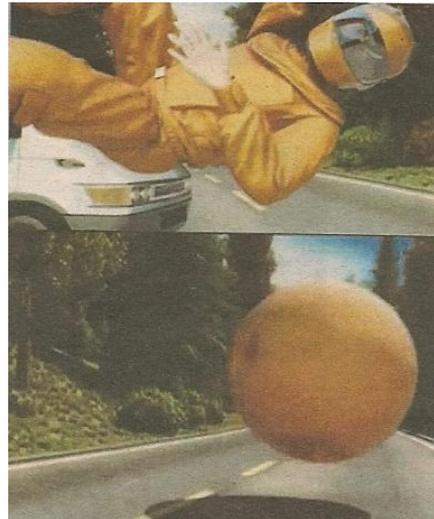
Rollin' on down the road

We've heard about airbags for motorcycles, but one inventor, a Quebecan named Rejean Neron, has developed an entire motorcycle Airbag suit - the Safety Sphere. The outer layer of the suit is manufactured from a tough parachute-type material, while the inside layer is a synthetic elastic. In the case of a collision where the rider or passenger is thrown from the motorcycle, the cord that connects the suit to the motorcycle seat disconnects, the voltage drops and the 9-volt battery attached to the back of the seat ignites causing the Safety Sphere to activate.

The YouTube video shows a van pulling out in front of a motorcyclist - the typical right-of-way violation that causes many injuries and deaths to riders. Upon impact, but before the rider hits the ground, his suit transforms into a huge sphere that envelops his entire body, including his legs, arm, and head. When the sphere finally stops rolling down the road, the motorcyclist climbs out of the deflated suit, totally unharmed.

Well, this might work on a deserted country road, but in most U.S. cities, the Safety Sphere would act like a pinball, at the complete mercy of whatever moving or stationary obstacle it comes into contact with and potentially causing additional motor vehicle accidents.

And how many of you have forgotten to disconnect your electric gear from your battery as you dismount and start to walk away from your bike? Since the suit is tethered to the motorcycle seat, forgetting to detach the device when you dismount will cause it to activate, probably knocking the bike over in the process.



And as if it's not embarrassing enough to drop your bike while trying to maneuver at low speeds or even at a stop, how mortifying would it be if your riding suit also transformed into a bright orange sphere?

Spectacular as the effect is; maybe the Safety Sphere needs a bit more work before it's released to the mass market.