

## **Bicycle Defect Causes Crash**

A man crashed his bicycle and suffered paralyzing injuries. According to a witness, the injured man was riding in front of him when he was suddenly catapulted from his bike and landed on his head. Robson Forensic was retained to determine if the bicycle or a component was defective and failed in a manner that caused the crash.

The witness indicated that only the front fork appeared damaged after the crash and that the rider didn't take any action that would have caused him to be ejected from his bike. Photographs of the crash site showed some cracking in the pavement, but nothing that could have caused the crash as described. Our inspection of the bicycle found fracturing to the fork legs without any corresponding significant damage to frontal areas of the bicycle. We showed that the crash was consistent with a sudden failure of the fork, causing the bicycle to stop suddenly, fall to the left, and catapult the rider forward. Removal of the fork from the bicycle proved the fork was installed properly and installation was not a cause of the fork failure. We also showed that the rider could not have controlled his bicycle after the fork failure. Material science experts did a non-destructive examination of the failed fork. This collaborative investigation by Robson Forensic bicycle and material science experts proved the crash was caused by a defective fork.

Prior to trial, the case settled with both defendants for insurance policy limits.

To email the expert involved in this case: [Erin B. Higinbotham, P.E.](#) with [Bicycle](#)