

## RIDER DOWN REPORT

USN Rider fatalities for FY 20:.....	<u>5</u>	Total Navy Motorcycle mishaps reported in WESS for FY 20:	<u>129</u>
USMC Rider Fatalities for FY 20:.....	<u>5</u>	Total USMC Motorcycle mishaps reported in WESS for FY 20:	<u>47</u>
USN/USMC Fatalities this report:	<u>0/0</u>	Total Motorcycle mishaps this report:	<u>14</u>

This report is a monthly update of the motorcycle mishaps that have occurred throughout the US Navy and Marine Corps. Recommendation: MSRs use this information during motorcycle training and Mentorship programs and forward to other personnel who may have an interest (with the exception contained in the notice below).

Note: Commands have up to 30 days to submit a WESS mishap report. As a result, the total number of mishaps shown in this report may be less than the actual number of mishaps that have occurred.

**The information contained in this report is based on preliminary information and is provided for hazard awareness and training purposes only. Official mishap data should be obtained from the Naval Safety Center.**

### The Naval Safety Center received the following reports for April 2020

The theme this month is twofold. First off, I am glad to report that this is the first month in a long time that the motorcycle mishaps have been this low. Secondly, the theme seems to be striking fixed objects. There is a lot of truth in the saying, "driving where you look is where you're going to go" or the official term called "ocular steering" or "target fixation." This potential driving trap should be recognized and avoided in the event you become fixated on the wrong thing at the wrong time.

This month's most common fixed objects appear to be parked vehicles, brick walls, guardrails, traffic cones, and even a pinecone. These items can be considered problematic for motorcycle riders. When confronted with a dangerous situation or something unusual suddenly appears in our field of vision, our instinct is to look directly at the object posing a threat and exclude everything else. Unable to look away or even consider an escape route, we tend to go where our eyes take us, often directly into the object. Remember always, keep your eyes up when riding, looking down the road, bend, or curve far enough that you can mentally place where you want the motorcycle to track.

Keep your eyes moving and acquire visual points one-step at a time, for a steady stream of information that your brain will automatically process on your ride. Above all, if target fixation grabs hold, do not panic!

Practice these vision techniques and think about what you would do if you are fixated on the road and inadvertently caught in one of these traps.

Do you have an escape route or adequate distance from surrounding objects to get out of the way? What choices can you make to avoid injury or severe damage to others and yourself? Do you have enough braking distance to avoid the hazard in the first place?

These mental exercises will go a long way to preventing target fixation as you ride.

Remember - heads up, eyes moving.

Michael Borkowski

### **Fatal Mishaps**

**None – "BZ"**

**Non-Fatal Mishaps:**

28 Apr 2020/2330L - 38-year-old, E-6 Location: Riverside County, CA  
Yr./Make/Model: 0000 Harley Davidson (Non-Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (Jun 2018) / Level II (Dec 2018)

Remarks: Rider was participating in a Patriot Guard motorcycle escort. Rider encountered a construction zone, slowed to merge, and laid the motorcycle down after striking a traffic cone and loose gravel. The rider sustained minor injuries.

28 Apr 2020/1330L - 22-year-old, E-5 Location: Wahiawa, HI  
Yr./Make/Model: 2011 Kawasaki Ninja (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: No  
Training: Level I (None) / Level II (None)

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash- no further information.

26 Apr 2020/1230L - 21-year-old, E-3 Location: Julian, CA  
Yr./Make/Model: NR  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (Feb 2020) / Level II (Sched)

Remarks: While rider was traveling with other riders on Hwy 78, the rider overcorrected during a left turn and lost control, ending up in a ditch. Rider evaluated at the scene by EMT and later treated at Balboa Naval Medical for a broken forearm and wrist.

26 Apr 2020/2100L - 40-year-old, E-7 Location: San Diego, CA  
Yr./Make/Model: 0000 Harley Davidson (Non-Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (NR)

Remarks: Rider struck a parked vehicle and was admitted to UCSD hospital for a broken left ankle.

26 Apr 2020/1500L - 22-year-old, E-3 Location: Cherry Point, NC  
Yr./Make/Model: 0000 Dirt Bike  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (NR)

Remarks: Rider was involved in a dirt bike crash, and was transported to Onslow Medical for injuries.

24 Apr 2020/1430L - 35-year-old, E-6 Location: Norfolk, VA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2010 Yamaha R6 (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes

Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (NR)

Remarks: Rider was approaching an intersection and was struck but did not recall what struck the motorcycle. Rider transported to Norfolk General Hospital for a broken leg.

20 Apr 2020/1330L - 21-year-old, E-3 Location: Port Orchard, WA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2017 Honda CBR (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (NR)

Remarks: Rider attempted to overtake two-vehicles prior to a curve and lost control of the motorcycle. SVM airlifted to Harbor View Medical Center.

08 Apr 2020/1600L - 23-year-old, E-3 Location: Norfolk, VA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2020 Suzuki GSXR (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (Feb 2020) / Level II (NR)

Remarks: Rider was riding in a parking lot, lost control of the motorcycle, and struck a wall. Rider transported to Portsmouth Naval Hospital for internal injuries.

04 Apr 2020/1130L - 28-year-old, E-5 Location: Borrego Springs, CA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2020 Kawasaki ZX10 (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (Oct 2016) / Level II (Oct 2018)

Remarks: Rider was traveling on Borrego Springs Road, struck a wall, and was ejected into a ditch. Rider airlifted to Polomar Medical and admitted in critical condition.

04 Apr 2020/2100L - 21-year-old, E-3 Location: St Mary's, GA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2006 Harley Davidson Road King (Non-Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (Jun 2019)

Remarks: Rider swerved to avoid another vehicle and lost control of the motorcycle.

03 Apr 2020/1430L - 33-year-old, E-5 Location: Chula Vista, CA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2016 Harley Davidson (Non-Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (Jan 2020) / Level II (NR)

Remarks: Rider was traveling NB on Eastlake Parkway when the rider hit a pinecone and lost control. Rider evaluated at the scene by EMT and released with no injuries.

03 Apr 2020/0600L - 00-year-old, UNK Location: Port Ludlow, WA  
Yr./Make/Model: 2014 Kawasaki KLR 650 (Non-Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (Jun 2019)

Remarks: Rider was traveling NB on Paradise Bay Road when a deer ran out in front of the rider. Rider lost control was ejected from the motorcycle and transported to Harrison Medical Center for injuries.

01 Apr 2020/0632L - 25-year-old, E-6 Location: Norfolk, VA  
Yr./Make/Model: 0000 Honda CBR 1000 (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (Jul 2019)

Remarks: Rider lost control of the motorcycle on the interstate onramp due to road conditions and crashed into a guardrail. Rider transported to Norfolk General Hospital for a broken shin.

01 Apr 2020/1030L - 21-year-old, E-3 Location: Pensacola, FL  
Yr./Make/Model: 2015 Yamaha FZ9 (Sport)  
PPE: Yes  
License: Yes  
Training: Level I (NR) / Level II (Sept 2019)

Remarks: Rider involved in a motorcycle crash- no further information.