



Rider Down is a monthly update of motorcycle mishaps that occurred throughout the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The data in this publication reflects what was reported during the time period covered.



Information contained in the report is based on preliminary data and is provided for hazard awareness and training purposes only. The Naval Safety Command recommends Motorcycle Safety Representatives use this information for training and mentorship programs and forward to others who may have an interest.



Obtain official mishap data from Naval Safety Command.

Navy	Total non-fatal mishaps this report: 24	Marine Corps
Rider fatalities this report: 0	Total fatalities this report: 1	Rider fatalities this report: 1
Rider fatalities for FY 24: 2		Rider fatalities for FY 24: 5

New Year's resolution for all: safer riders

By Juan Aguilar
Naval Safety Command

Just as the new year has arrived, so too have the frigid winter conditions. By now, many of us have made resolutions to eat healthier, exercise more or be kinder to one another. However, within days or weeks, many of these good intentions may fall by the wayside.

One resolution everyone can focus on is making 2024 safer for motorcycle riders. Riders can pledge to be safer by obeying laws, remaining current with training requirements and being mindful of other drivers.

The leading causes of most motorcycle accidents in fiscal year (FY) 2023 were riders colliding with or being struck by a motor vehicle, speeding excessively and improperly maneuvering. Private motor vehicles (PMV-4) cutting off or colliding with riders continues to be a leading cause of motorcycle fatalities month after month. November alone saw two Marines killed by a motor vehicle, which inadvertently turned in front of them.

In the last fiscal year, the Navy has unfortunately set a record-high of 23 fatalities — the highest in the past 10 years. On the other hand, the Marines have had the lowest fatalities since 2019 and 2020, as shown in Figure 1. It is quite concerning that during FY 23, there was a total loss of 14.5 fatalities per 100,000 Navy and Marine Corps uniformed personnel due to motorcycle (PMV-2) accidents. Fortunately, the loss rate has decreased over the last three months.

Motorcycle safety representatives, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers can use the start of the new year as a checkpoint to ensure riders are current with training and licensing. Winter may not be the most appealing time to attend rider courses, but class availability may be greater, providing a better opportunity to

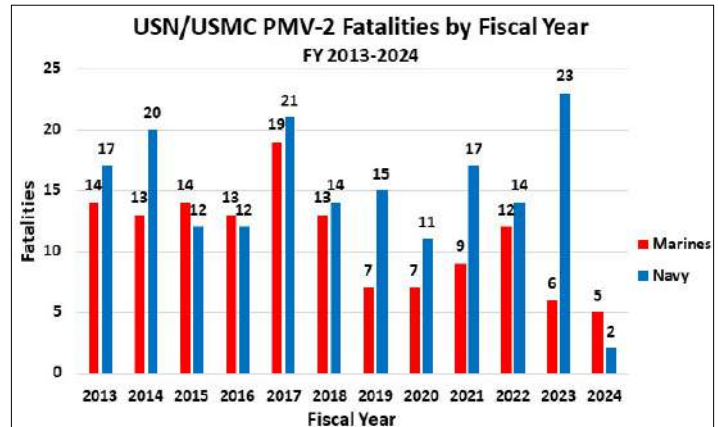


Figure 1 above depicts Navy and Marine Corps reported motorcycle fatalities by fiscal year from 2013 to 2024.

attend than during the warm months. This will ensure riders stay up to date with training requirements. Cold-weather riding courses may also serve as a good training tool to ensure riders wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE). Training in these conditions will determine if your PPE meets its intended purpose. For additional information on PPE, check out the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's website at <https://msf-usa.org/documents/library/personal-protective-gear/>.

Use the Rider Down reports as part of your safety and training briefs. Current PMV mishap summaries statistics can be viewed on Naval Safety Command's webpage at <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Resources/Statistics/>.

Additional Motorcycle Rider Down reports are available here: <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Resources/Motorcycle-Rider-Down-Reports-Newsletters/>.



Motorcycle Mishaps

December 2023



Motorcycle Mishap Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific mishaps

Fatal Mishaps - 1 (All times local)

Dec. 28, 3:25 p.m., age NR, E-4
 Location: Pooler, Georgia
 Remarks: Rider was speeding on a local highway, crashed into a vehicle and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Nonfatal Mishaps - 24 (All times local)

Dec. 1, 8 a.m., 22-year-old E-5
 Location: St. Marys, Georgia
 Remarks: Rider lost control in a turn and fell in the grass. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a right hip abrasion.

Dec. 2, 8 a.m., 31-year-old E-5
 Location: San Diego, California
 Remarks: Rider lost control due to a possible malfunction. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured wrist and foot.

Dec. 4, 7:40 a.m., 39-year-old O-4
 Location: Lemoore, California
 Remarks: Rider lost traction while navigating a curve, resulting in a high-side crash. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for back injuries.

Dec. 4, 10 p.m., 20-year-old E-3
 Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina
 Remarks: Rider was practicing, accelerated quickly and lost control. Rider did not let go of throttle and went through a ditch, fence and into a pond. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Dec. 5, 7:30 a.m., 31-year-old E-6
 Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina
 Remarks: Rider collided with a PMV-4 traveling 40 mph. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries to extremities.

Dec. 5, 3 p.m., 26-year-old E-6
 Location: Grovetown, Georgia
 Remarks: Rider lost control during a brake malfunction and collided with a PMV-4. Rider did not go to a hospital.

Dec. 7, 7 a.m., age NR, E-4
 Location: Chesapeake, Virginia
 Remarks: Rider lost control and skidded across the highway. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for road rash.

Dec. 7, 7:15 p.m., 28-year-old E-6
 Location: Honolulu, Hawaii
 Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Dec. 9, 6 p.m., 22-year-old, rank NR
 Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was trying to get on a highway, fishtailed and lost control. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a concussion.

Dec. 9, 11 p.m., age NR, E-3
 Location: Honolulu, Hawaii
 Remarks: Rider laid down bike to avoid a car that ran a stop sign and fled the scene. Rider was treated for a dislocated elbow.

Dec. 11, 12 p.m., 50-year-old O-3
 Location: Pensacola, Florida
 Remarks: Rider tried to stop using their leg during the Basic Rider Course (BRC). Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for knee and leg injuries.

Dec. 13, 7:30 a.m., age and rank NR
 Location: Escondido, California
 Remarks: Rider was rear-ended by a PMV-4, transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Dec. 14, 8:20 a.m., 27-year-old E-7
 Location: Jacksonville, Florida
 Remarks: Rider collided with a vehicle making a last-minute merge. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured leg and wrist.

Dec. 16, 7:45 p.m., 20-year-old E-3
 Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Remarks: Rider and passenger lost control while riding over leaves on the road. Rider was wearing PPE, but had not completed BRC and did not have a motorcycle license. Passenger was not wearing a helmet.

Dec. 17, 2:45 a.m., age NR E-3
 Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina
 Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

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Motorcyclists who ride during the winter months should ensure they have the required cold weather gear to stay safe, warm and comfortable during rides. (Image courtesy of Shutterstock)

Motorcycle Mishaps

December 2023



The sun's glare can still be a safety hazard throughout winter, so riders should be sure to wear sunglasses or a tinted motorcycle helmet visor during cold-winter rides. (Image courtesy of Shutterstock)

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Dec. 17, 5 p.m., age NR, E-6
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was operating a PMV-2 on an off-road track, miscalculated the jump landing and struck the berm. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a contusion.

Dec. 17, 7 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: Temecula, California
Remarks: Rider collided with a PMV-4, was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured pelvis.

Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m., 25-year-old E-3
Location: Beaufort, South Carolina
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured leg.

Dec. 20, 5:50 a.m., 20-year-old E-3
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was hit by a PMV-4 that was making a last-minute merge onto an off-ramp. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a leg injury.

Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m., 32-year-old E-6
Location: Portsmouth, Virginia

Remarks: Rider's rear tire slipped on loose road terrain. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured collarbone.

Dec. 23, 12 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was hit by a PMV-4 while switching lanes. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for road rash.

Dec. 24, 12:45 p.m., 21-year-old E-4
Location: Okinawa, Japan
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured left foot.

Dec. 27, 8 a.m., 27-year-old E-5
Location: Rota, Spain
Remarks: Service member was riding a scooter to work. While making a turn, the rider hit loose gravel and lost control, suffering minor scrapes and cuts, but continued commute to work.

Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., 26-year-old E-5
Location: Honolulu, Hawaii
Remarks: Rider stopped abruptly to avoid contact with oncoming traffic and fell off motorcycle, receiving minor injuries.



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

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