

# RIDER DOWN REPORT

July 2023



*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

Rider fatalities this report: **4**  
Rider fatalities for FY 23: **17**

Total non-fatal mishaps  
this report: **30**

Total fatalities this report: **6**

## Marine Corps

Rider fatalities this report: **2**  
Rider fatalities for FY 23: **6**

# Remember to drink water, stay hydrated

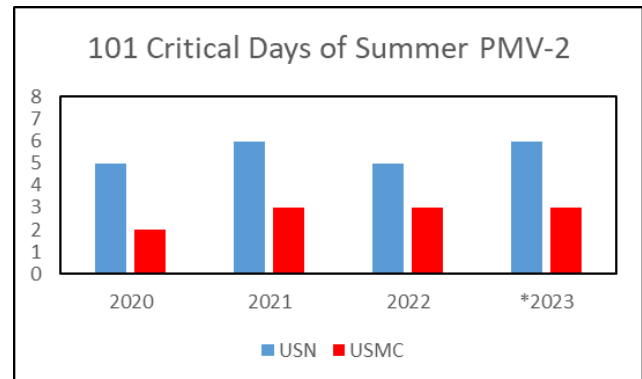
By Brian Best, Naval Safety Command

We have completed month two of the 101 Critical Days of Summer and have lost six Sailors and three Marines to PMV-2 mishaps. Remember, be vigilant while riding and try to avoid putting yourself in a position where another vehicle could collide with you if they were not paying attention. There were six mishaps associated with automobiles failing to yield to oncoming traffic. When turning, anticipate gravel being on the sides of the road and corners. There were six mishaps resulting from road hazards. Ride within your limits and use T-CLOCS pre-ride inspection checklist before you ride. Also worthy of discussion were three mishaps relating to lack of experience and situational awareness from riding too close to other vehicles and not allowing enough time to stop at a stop sign. Be safe and aware of your surroundings and stay hydrated.

In some regions of the country, the weather can be a killer. Temperatures can reach and exceed triple digits and wearing all your appropriate riding gear will make it feel like a sauna on two wheels. Yet, on top of all your rider duties, remember to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, not just any liquid; stick to water. Avoid drinking caffeinated and carbonated drinks. Coffee, iced tea and soda contain caffeine and are not a good source of hydration. Ice cold drinks, as refreshing as they sound, will also lead you to drink less water.

OSHA recommends people should drink 8 ounces of water every 20 minutes while working and riding is no exception. Sports and energy drinks may be more helpful, especially on a long group ride. See <https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/water-rest-shade>.

Let's not forget about alcohol. Alcohol and riding should never be mixed. According to the Cleveland Clinic, not only will alcohol dehydrate you, but it also may lead to confusion, coordination



The above graph depicts the Navy and Marine Corps' reported motorcycle fatalities during the 101 Critical Days of Summer over the past three years. \* As of July 31, 2023.

problems and unforeseen accidents, see <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/dangers-of-too-much-alcohol-summer-heat>. Heat stress information is also available via the Naval Safety Command's latest safety awareness dispatch: SA 23-20 Heat Stress Mishaps at <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Safety-Promotions/Safety-Awareness/>.

Being a rider is not only a privilege but a full-time job. Maintain situational awareness from the moment you start your motorcycle until you reach your ultimate destination. By the end of August, many children will be walking along the streets when school will be back in session. Take additional time to and from work as you may find yourself behind school buses or children running in the streets during your morning and evening commute.

(Archived *Rider Down Reports* are available at <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Resources/Motorcycle-Rider-Down-Reports-Newsletters/>.)



# Motorcycle Mishaps

## July 2023



### Motorcycle Mishap Legend

NR represents information not reported

**Red entries** represent Marine Corps-specific mishaps

#### Fatal Mishaps (All times local)

July 1, 4:25 p.m., 20-year-old E-3

Location: El Paso, Arkansas

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 attempting to make a left-hand turn onto an interstate. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

July 7, 8:55 p.m., 20-year-old E-3

Location: Williamsburg, Virginia

Remarks: Rider entered a turn at high speed and lost control. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

July 16, time NR, 22-year-old E-3

Location: Palm Springs, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was riding at excessive speeds and lost control striking a parked PMV-4. Rider succumbed to injuries at hospital.

July 20, time/age/rank NR

Location: Wilmington, North Carolina

Remarks: SVM involved in motorcycle accident, died at the scene.

July 25, 5:15 p.m., 20-year-old E-3

Location: Goose Creek, South Carolina

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 on the side that failed to yield the right-of-way. Rider succumbed to injuries at hospital.

July 30, 1:19 p.m., 39-year-old E-5

Location: Austin, Texas

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

#### Nonfatal Mishaps (All times local )

July 1, 1:15 p.m., 24-year-old E-3

Location: Oso, Washington

Remarks: Rider lost control. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for road rash on left arm and knee.

July 1, 11:45 a.m., 24-year-old E-4

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider lost control when riding through a puddle. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries to right elbow, legs and left calf. Rider had no motorcycle training or license to ride.

July 2, 0930 a.m., 19-year-old E-3

Location: Oceanside, California

Remarks: Rider lost traction with rear tire and hit brake instead of accelerator. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for a fractured right ankle.

July 2, 1:20 p.m., 20-year-old E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a single-vehicle accident. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for lacerations on the right arm and left leg.

July 3, 10:30 p.m., 27-year-old E-5

Location: Okinawa, Japan

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 that failed to yield in an intersection. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for multiple injuries.

July 4, 6 p.m., 20-year-old E-2

Location: Swansboro, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider (dirt bike) in a neighborhood hit their brakes too hard and was thrown from bike. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for knee injuries.

July 4, 9:30 p.m., 24-year-old E-4

Location: Coronado, California

Remarks: Rider was cut off and lost control. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured arm.

July 6, 1:15 p.m., 31-year-old E-5

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider hit a pothole while making a right-hand turn. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for an injured wrist.

July 6, 5:30 a.m., 23-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost control and struck a guardrail. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for a right leg injury.

July 6, 12:50 p.m., 21-year-old E-2

Location: James City, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider was involved in a collision with a PMV-4. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for a concussion, broken bones in their hand and road rash.

July 8, 5:30 p.m., 19-year-old E-3

Location: Temecula, California

Remarks: Rider slid on gravel while transitioning a curve. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries to left elbow and right forearm.

July 8, 6 p.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider slid on gravel while transitioning a curve. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries to left knee and deep lacerations to lower leg.

July 10, 8:40 p.m., 36-year-old O-4

Location: Monterrey, California

Remarks: Rider was in traffic and struck a PMV-4 that came to a sudden stop. Rider did not seek medical treatment.

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# Motorcycle Mishaps

## July 2023

(Continued from Page 2)

July 11, 9 p.m., 25-year-old E-4  
Location: Everett, Washington  
Remarks: Rider was rear-ended by a PMV-4 while merging on a highway. Rider was not injured but total loss of PMV-2.

July 14, 3:07 p.m., age NR E-4  
Location: California  
Remarks: Rider was lane splitting when a PMV-4 changed lanes. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

July 14, 8 p.m., age NR, E-4  
Location: Orange Park, Florida  
Remarks: Rider locked up brakes at a stop light and was thrown from bike. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

July 15, 12 p.m., 25-year-old E-3  
Location: Virginia  
Remarks: Rider lost control approaching a stop sign during a group ride. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for a fractured elbow.

July 16, 7:15 p.m., 20-year-old E-4  
Location: El Campo, California  
Remarks: Rider lost control. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for bruising on their right hip.

July 17, 1:16 p.m., 33-year-old E-6  
Location: Hampton, Virginia  
Remarks: Rider lost control when their brakes locked up and slid into a PMV-4 that suddenly stopped on a highway. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for a sore back.

July 18, 6:18 p.m., age and rank NR  
Location: Charleston, South Carolina  
Remarks: Rider was decelerating and lost control. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

July 20, 2:30 p.m., 22-year-old E-4  
Location: Pensacola, Florida  
Remarks: Rider was on a group ride when a PMV-4 pulled out from a parking lot and a civilian rider struck the PMV-4. Rider swerved around the PMV-4 and another rider but lost control. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for road rash on their arms.

July 21, 9 p.m., 24-year-old E-5  
Location: Maunawili, Hawaii  
Remarks: Rider lost control. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for fractures to their wrist and elbow.

July 21, 9:30 p.m., 21-year-old E-4  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider avoided an animal on the road and rode over gravel, losing control. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for minor injuries.

July 22, 5:40 a.m., 27-year-old E-6  
Location: Midwest City, Oklahoma  
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 while turning left and having the protected green arrow at an intersection. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

July 22, 12:20 p.m., 24-year-old E-5  
Location: Santa Ana, California  
Remarks: Rider was in traffic and a PMV-4 swerved in front of the rider and applied the brakes resulting in a collision. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

July 22, 2:30 p.m., 23-year-old E-5  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider lost control and struck a guardrail. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

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# Motorcycle Mishaps

## July 2023

(Continued from Page 3)

July 24, 6 p.m., 25-year-old E-5  
Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Remarks: Rider lost control while making a left turn when their rear tire contacted loose gravel. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

July 25, 8:35 p.m., 21-year-old E-5  
Location: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
Remarks: Rider lost control and collided with a guardrail. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for leg and arm injuries.

July 26, 4 p.m., age and rank NR  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 that pulled out in front of them. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for minor injuries.

July 28, 7:15 a.m., age NR, E-5  
Location: Lemoore, California

Remarks: Rider lost control while going through an “S” curve. Rider was transported to a hospital and treated for a fractured collar bone.

*Although the below incident is exempt from reporting, it is worth mentioning that another one of our service members lost their life due to their actions. Regardless of the reason whether you're running late for work or want to get there five minutes earlier, speeding and evading police is not worth the price of a ticket or especially your life.*

July 12, 7 a.m., 22-year-old E-5  
Location: Coronado, California  
Remarks: Rider was at a high rate of speed and was being pulled over when they struck the side of a PMV-4 in an intersection. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene. Pending investigation if reportable.

\*Not included in numbers at this time.



Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7) participate in a command motorcycle ride, April 28, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austyn Riley)



## ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

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[navalsafetycommand.navy.mil](https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil)