



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: 23 Total fatalities this report: 4	Marine Corps
Rider fatalities this report: 0 Rider fatalities for FY 24: 2		Rider fatalities this report: 4 Rider fatalities for FY 24: 4

Fall is here, but winter is fast approaching!

By Juan Aguilar
Naval Safety Command

Fall is breezing through, and winter is just around the corner. Riding season will be coming to an end in certain areas of the U.S. and abroad, but if you continue to ride during frigid conditions, be sure to dress appropriately.

In November, the leading cause of motorcycle accidents was riders losing control, followed closely by riders colliding with or being struck by a motor vehicle. According to Figure 1, the Navy has tied with the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2022 and is on the verge of meeting or exceeding the first quarter of FY 2023 with a month left in the quarter. The National Safety Council Injury Facts state preventable injury is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. Roughly 14% of all traffic fatalities involved a motorcyclist. To ensure riders stay safe and arrive alive, use the following information on motorcycle safety, distracted driving and vehicle safety from the Department of Transportation: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/motorcycle-safety/>.

There are more risks associated with riding in winter than in fall. Fall brings a change in time and temperature as well as the added stress of the holiday season. The leaves have changed colors, fallen and made a mess of the roads. However, winter brings the added risk of black ice, freezing roadways before bridges and tunnels, and unbearable cold at high speeds. Certain areas will encounter heavy snow, and as pretty as that may seem, it can lead to unpredictable road conditions. Beware of loosely packed snow and potholes. Freezing rain, aside from making for a slippery ride, can cause roads to buckle. Observe speed limits to allow yourself time to react to unforeseen road conditions.

If you decide to ride out the winter, please dress for comfort and protection from your head to your feet – winter is not the time to

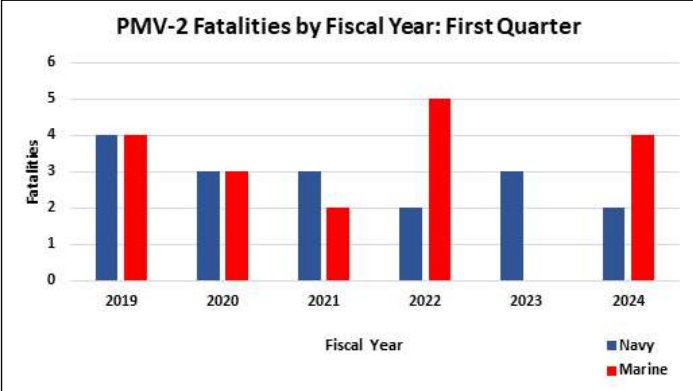


Figure 1 above depicts Navy and Marine Corps reported motorcycle fatalities from October to December for the first quarter of the last six fiscal years.

dress down. Dress in layers for the ride, and as always, dress visibly for other riders and drivers. Wear gloves for protection from the cold and potential injury in case of an accident. With snow on the ground, the glare from the sun can be a safety hazard, so be sure to wear sunglasses or a tinted motorcycle helmet visor. Remember your hearing protection – especially if you have hearing problems.

Motorcycle safety representatives, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers should ensure riders are current in training and licensing. Be proactive with your safety and training briefs. For information on personal protective equipment, check out the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's website: <https://msf-usa.org/documents/library/personal-protective-gear/>.

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



Motorcycle Mishaps

November 2023



Motorcycle Mishap Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific mishaps

Fatal Mishaps - 4 (All times local)

Nov. 4, time and age NR, E-3
Location: Hubert, North Carolina
Remarks: Motor vehicle turned in front of rider, who struck the vehicle and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Nov. 14, time and age NR, E-4
Location: Escondido, California
Remarks: Motor vehicle pulled out in traffic to make a left turn. Rider struck the vehicle and was pronounced deceased at the scene. (Sailor was attached to U.S. Marine Corps Command)

Nov. 14, 6:36 p.m., age NR, E-7
Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina
Remarks: Rider struck a deer and was transported to a local hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries.

Nov. 26, 12 p.m., age NR, E-2
Location: Camp Pendleton, California
Remarks: Rider was learning to ride from a friend and crashed. Rider was transported to a local hospital and pronounced deceased at the hospital. Rider had not completed official motorcycle training.

Nonfatal Mishaps - 23 (All times local)

Nov. 2, 6 p.m., 21-year-old E-4
Location: Barriada de la Polila, Spain
Remarks: Rider picked up motorcycle from the shop and lost control on slick road conditions. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for three fractures.

Nov. 3, 2 p.m., 21-year-old E-4
Location: Oceanside, California
Remarks: Rider was turning left on a green arrow when a PMV-4 ran a red light and struck the rider. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Nov. 4, 10 a.m., 34-year-old E-6
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: PMV-4 turned onto the street, failing to yield to rider, who struck the vehicle. Rider was transported to local hospital and treated for dislocated elbow and fractured wrist.

Nov. 6, 3 p.m., age NR, E-6
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider lost control and crashed into a guardrail. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured fibula, collarbone and cracked rib.

Nov. 6, 4:10 p.m., 36-year-old E-5
Location: Camarillo, California
Remarks: Rider was cut off by a PMV-4 following an emergency

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With snow on the ground, the glare from the sun can be a safety hazard, so be sure to wear sunglasses or a tinted motorcycle helmet visor while riding during the winter months. (Image courtesy of Shutterstock)

Motorcycle Mishaps

November 2023

(Continued from Page 2)

vehicle that changed lanes without signaling. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Nov. 8, time NR, 31-year-old E-7
Location: Kentucky

Remarks: Rider was turning when struck by another PMV-2 traveling the opposite direction. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for ankle injuries.

Nov. 8, 11 p.m., 23-year-old E-3
Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost control after losing traction. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Nov. 9, 7 a.m., 28-year-old E-7
Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was lane splitting when a PMV-4 changed lanes without signaling, striking the rider. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured left clavicle.

Nov. 10, 7:45 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control while changing lanes and struck another rider. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured wrist and road rash.

Nov. 11, 7:53 p.m., 36-year-old O-1
Location: Deltona, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost control and hit an on-ramp curb. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Nov. 12, 3:10 a.m., age NR, E-3
Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider and passenger hit an oil patch and lost traction. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured collarbone and foot.

Nov. 12, 10:45 p.m., 36-year-old E-7
Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a hit-and-run accident. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a dislocated left pinky and two fractured ribs on the left.

Nov. 13, 6:30 a.m., age NR, E-3
Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider collided with another rider while both were switching lanes at the same time. Rider did not go to the hospital.

Nov. 13, 8:45 a.m., 21-year-old E-5
Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was lane splitting when struck by a PMV-4 swerving between lanes in front of the rider. Rider transported to local hospital and treated for hand and hip injuries.

Nov. 13, 2:34 p.m., 24-year-old E-5
Location: Okinawa, Japan

Remarks: Rider was practicing on the Basic Riders Course lot the

day before the course and lost control. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a minor fracture.

Nov. 14, 10:45 a.m., age and rank NR
Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, transported to local hospital and treated for injuries to right thumb.

Nov. 15, 11:50 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost traction and skidded. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries to their right shoulder, collarbone, and left wrist.

Nov. 17, 12:30 a.m., 22-year-old E-5
Location: Camp Pendleton, California

Remarks: Rider lost control of bike and crashed. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured wrist.

Nov. 20, 1 a.m., 21-year-old E-4
Location: Chon Buri, Thailand

Remarks: Moped rider with passenger tried to avoid a dog in the road. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for an eyebrow laceration and road rash on arms, head and cheek.

Nov. 22, 10:30 p.m., age NR, E-5
Location: Escondido, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, transported to a local hospital and treated for pulmonary contusion, pneumothorax, extensive inguinal soft tissue injuries, pelvic fracture, left radiocarpal dislocation and right-hand degloving as well as tibia, fibula and ankle fractures.

Nov. 23, 2:46 p.m., 21-year-old E-4
Location: Chula Vista, California

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 that ran a red light. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for multiple abrasions.

Nov. 23, 5:15 p.m., 20-year-old E-3
Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control on gravel and laid bike down. Rider was transported to local hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Nov. 27, 5:45 a.m., 21-year-old E-4
Location: Seattle, Washington

Remarks: Rider lost control on an icy patch, was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

Although the following is not a reportable incident, one of our service members suffered injuries due to his actions:

Nov. 25, 9:52 p.m., 30-year-old E-3
Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in an accident after a pursuit by Virginia Beach Police for speeding. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries. Rider was evading police and indicated suicidal ideations as the reason for the pursuit.



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

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