



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

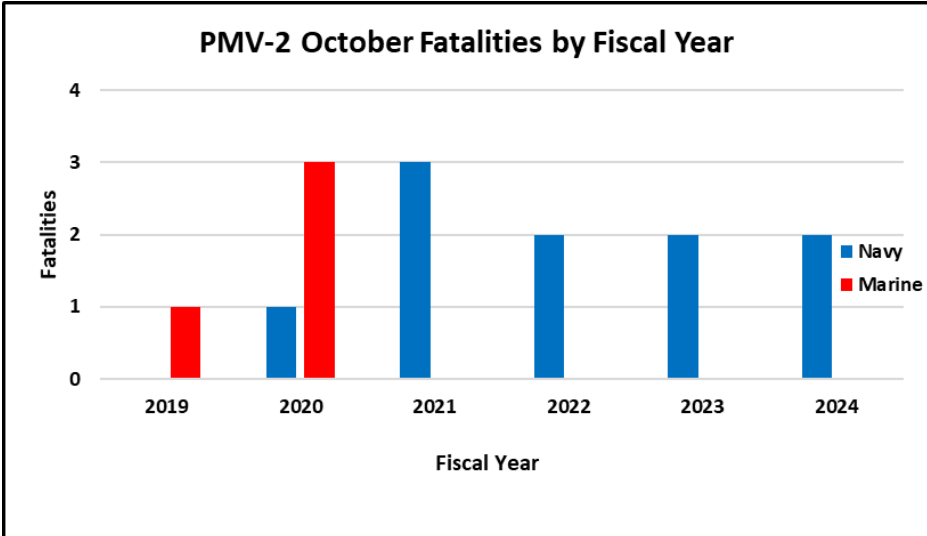
Navy		Marine Corps	
Rider fatalities this report: 2	Total non-fatal mishaps this report: 31	Rider fatalities this report: 0	Rider fatalities for FY 24: 0
Rider fatalities for FY 24: 2	Total fatalities this report: 2		

Fall season brings additional hazards on the road

By Juan Aguilar
Naval Safety Command

Fall is here; the leaves are changing colors and cold weather is on its way in many areas. The seasonal change not only brings about colorful views while riding but also increases the hazards riders can encounter on the road. In fiscal year (FY) 2023, the Department of the Navy (DON) lost 29 service members from motorcycle accidents, 23 Sailors and six Marines. The outcome was a drastic change for Navy and Marines compared to FY 2022, when 14 Sailors and 11 Marines died.

In October two service members were lost to the DON due to motorcycle accidents and 26 suffered lost work time or multiple injuries. This month, the leading cause of most motorcycle accidents was riders losing control, followed closely by riders colliding with or being struck by another motor vehicle. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, this type of crash involving four-wheeled motor vehicles continues to account for nearly half of all motorcyclist fatalities in the United States. Additional motorcycle safety, distracted driving and vehicle safety promotional material is available on the U.S. Department of Transportation website. <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/motorcycle-safety>. Use this material to ensure motorcycle riders stay safe and arrive home alive.



Various risks can occur during the fall riding season. Along with the temperature and time change, the changing colors of the leaves may seem like a fantastic scene; do not let this simple distraction cause a motorcycle accident. Just as you enjoy the scenery, a distracted driver may inadvertently switch lanes or veer off the road while looking, too. Keep an eye on your surroundings and remain visible at all times. If you must, stop in a safe, designated viewing area to take your pictures. The jaw-dropping distraction of the colorful leaves will eventually lead to an added hazardous accumulation of leaves and debris on roads and highways. Wet leaves can lead to potentially dangerous accidents.

Figure 1 above depicts Navy and Marine Corps' reported motorcycle fatalities for October over the last six fiscal years.



Motorcycle Mishaps

October 2023



Motorcycle Mishap Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific mishaps

Fatal Mishaps (All times local)

Oct. 14, time NR, 18-year-old E-4
Location: Charleston, South Carolina
Remarks: Rider accelerated after a stop light and collided with a PMV-4. Rider was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Oct. 20, time NR, 22-year-old E-4
Location: Charleston, South Carolina
Remarks: Rider lost control and crashed into a tree. Rider was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Nonfatal Mishaps (All times local)

Oct. 1, 6 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: NR
Remarks: Rider was involved in a multi-vehicle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for hemorrhaging, a fractured pelvis and bladder injuries.

Oct. 1, 7 p.m., 21-year-old, E-3
Location: Oceanside, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured foot and required skin graft.

Oct. 1, time and age NR, E-5*
Location: Manama, Bahrain
Remarks: Rider (Electric scooter) was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and was treated for a leg sprain.

Oct. 2, 10:30 p.m., 33-year-old, O-4
Location: Sasebo, Japan
Remarks: Rider was involved in a traffic accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a dislocated shoulder.

Oct. 4, 5:40 a.m., 35-year-old E-7
Location: Temecula, California
Remarks: Rider was cut off by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to

hospital and treated for injuries to their arm, leg and side of their body.

Oct. 4, 7:30 a.m., age and rank NR
Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico
Remarks: Rider was sideswiped by PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a concussion, fractured rib, shoulder and a punctured lung.

Oct. 4, 4:13 p.m., 37-year-old E-7
Location: Woodbridge, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was involved in a traffic accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Oct. 6, time, age and rank NR
Location: Temecula, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by an oncoming PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Oct. 6, 8:50 p.m., age NR E-5
Location: Bethesda, Maryland
Remarks: Rider was attempting to pass and was struck by a PMV-4 on the rider's right side as they were changing lanes simultaneously. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash and three fractured ribs on the right side.

Oct. 6, 8:50 p.m., 22-year-old E-4
Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Remarks: Rider lost traction and slid into the back of a PMV-4. Rider did not require medical attention.

Oct. 7, 9:30 p.m., 20-year-old E-3
Location: Oceanside, California
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right ankle and foot.

Oct. 7, 4 a.m., age and rank NR
Location: Hampton, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident and sustained minor injuries.

Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m., 23-year-old E-1*
Location: San Fernando Spain
Remarks: Rider (on scooter) collided with a curb. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right metacarpal.

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Fall hazards

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Avoid potholes, especially since they could be packed with wet leaves. Fall also brings cooler weather and can warrant riders wearing layers of clothing. Dress appropriately for comfort and make yourself visible. The cooler season also brings about the emergence of wildlife darting across country roads and highways. In certain regions, deer are more active this time of year. Observe posted speed limits in case of a last-minute course correction due to deer, geese or your friendly neighborhood pet darting onto the road.

Motorcycle riders have the same rights and privileges as all other motor vehicle drivers. Yet, all riders must remain vigilant and

most importantly, ensure they are visible to other drivers. Wear all required personal protective equipment (PPE). The glare from the sun can be a safety factor when riding; wear sunglasses or a tinted motorcycle helmet visor.

Motorcycle safety representatives, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers should ensure their personnel are current with training and licensing. Be proactive with your safety and training briefs. For more PPE information, check out the Motorcycle Safety Foundation website: <https://msf-usa.org/documents/library/personal-protective-gear/>. Additional Rider Down Reports are available here: <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Resources/Motorcycle-Rider-Down-Reports-Newsletters/>.

Motorcycle Mishaps

October 2023

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Oct. 8, 3:30 a.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider hit a bump in the road and lost control. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Oct. 8, 2:30 p.m., 22-year-old E-5

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost traction and crashed. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured leg.

Oct. 9, 12 p.m., 23-year-old E-4

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider rode into a left turn wide and lost control on the gravel in the road. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a dislocated AC joint bilateral.

Oct. 10, 12 p.m., 32-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost traction in a turn. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Oct. 11, 6:55 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Pozzuoli NA, Italy

Remarks: Rider took an evasive maneuver to the left to avoid a collision due to a vehicle slamming on their brakes. The Rider stuck a PMV-4 that was making an illegal U-turn. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Oct. 11, 7:45 a.m., 25-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was turning at an intersection and was struck by a PMV-4 that went through the light. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Oct. 12, 3:30 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control when a PMV-4 stopped suddenly. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured leg in three places, fractured ribs and a fractured wrist.

Oct. 13, 12 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider struck a deer and was thrown off the motorcycle. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Oct. 16, 12 p.m., 27-year-old E-3*

Location: Augusta, Georgia

Remarks: Rider lost control of electric bike and struck a curb. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a mild concussion.

Oct. 19, 6 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: Grangeville, California

Remarks: Rider took a turn too fast and lost control. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Oct. 20, 6 p.m., 28-year-old O-2

Location: Hanford, California

Remarks: Rider lost control in a turn. Rider did not receive medical attention.

Oct. 21, time and age NR, E-6

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider took a corner too fast and rode off the road into a mountain side. Rider was transported to hospital and was treated for a fractured right arm, amputation to ring finger to the first knuckle, fractured pinky finger and left ankle.

Oct. 22, 12:30 a.m., 45-year-old, E-6

Location: Hollywood, Maryland

Remarks: Rider lost control of their bike and crashed. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a concussion, fractured collar bone and fractured ribs.

Oct. 22, 10:20 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was struck from behind by a pick-up truck during a group ride. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Oct. 27, 6:30 a.m., 25-year-old E-5

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident with an at-fault PMV-4 driver. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right foot.

Oct. 28, 9:30 p.m., 25-year-old E-5

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control while attempting to turn on high beams. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured clavicle.

Oct. 28, 12:45 a.m., 22-year-old E-5

Location: Oak Harbor, Washington

Remarks: Rider lost control of their bike when they encountered gravel on the road. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash. Toxicology report indicated a blood alcohol content of .012. Law enforcement did not issue criminal citation.

Oct. 29, 2:24 a.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Dededo, Guam

Remarks: Rider was struck from behind by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries.

Oct. 31, 8:15 p.m., 22-year-old E-5

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and released; no sustained injuries.

* *Low speed vehicles (LSVs), neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs), mopeds and scooters are considered motor vehicles when operated on the highways, per OPNAV M-5100.23 (Series).*



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

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