

RIDER DOWN REPORT

SEPTEMBER 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: **2**
Rider fatalities for FY 23: **23**

Total non-fatal mishaps
this report: **27**
Total fatalities this report: **2**

Marine Corps

Rider fatalities this report: **0**
Rider fatalities for FY 23: **6**

Leading Causes of Motorcycle Mishaps; 10-Year Summary

By Juan Aguilar
Naval Safety Command

In reviewing the naval enterprise's Risk Management Information-Streamlined Incident Reporting (RMI-SIR) private motor vehicle (PMV-2) data, the Department of the Navy's (DON) fatality numbers increased from 25 fatalities in fiscal year (FY) 2022 to 29 in FY23. Over the past 10 years, the DON has averaged 16 PMV-2 fatalities a year (FY13-FY23). This number does not include fatalities exempt from reporting, such as evading police.

The DON is not improving as we continue to see a repeat in fatalities which may have been prevented. Riders can prevent

accidents from happening. Take an active approach and remain visible. The No. 1 cause of motorcycle mishaps was other drivers' inattention. Following are some leading causal factors over the 10-year span.

No improper operation identifies fatalities where the other driver/non-DoD drivers were at fault or the cause of the accident. Over the past 10 years, other drivers' inattention and distraction have been a leading causal factor. Safety gear prevents injury and adds comfort, allows for better control and ensures you are visible to other drivers. Mitigate this causal factor by ensuring you are visible to drivers in any of their mirrors.

Excessive speed can be challenging — even if you are an experienced motorcyclist. Reaction times will vary based on the rate of speed. You can control your speed and reactions. There is no way of influencing other drivers and you must be capable of stopping safely if the need arises. Local highways are not a controlled environment and reckless riding should be avoided. Shedding speed before an impending accident can distinguish between scrapes and bruises or not making it home. You can mitigate this hazard by following all posted speed limits.

Improper maneuvers on the road are a significant cause of death in motorcycle accidents. What you do when taking turns too fast, locking the brakes or hitting a gravel patch in a blind corner will help or break you. Practice under all weather conditions to improve your skills. Dangerous weather conditions cannot always be avoided, but how you react may save your life. You can mitigate this hazard by staying current with training and practice, practice, practice. Do not be a fair-weather rider!



U.S. Navy photo by Amy Robinson/Naval Safety Command

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Figure 1.
Navy and Marine Corps
Fatalities by cause
of accident.

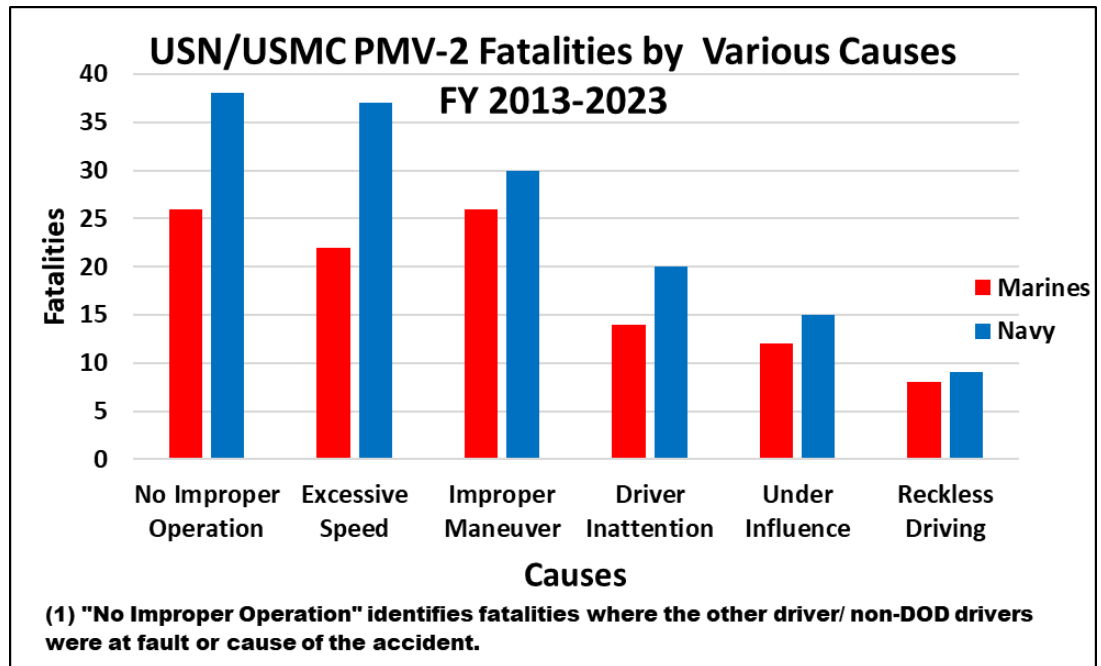
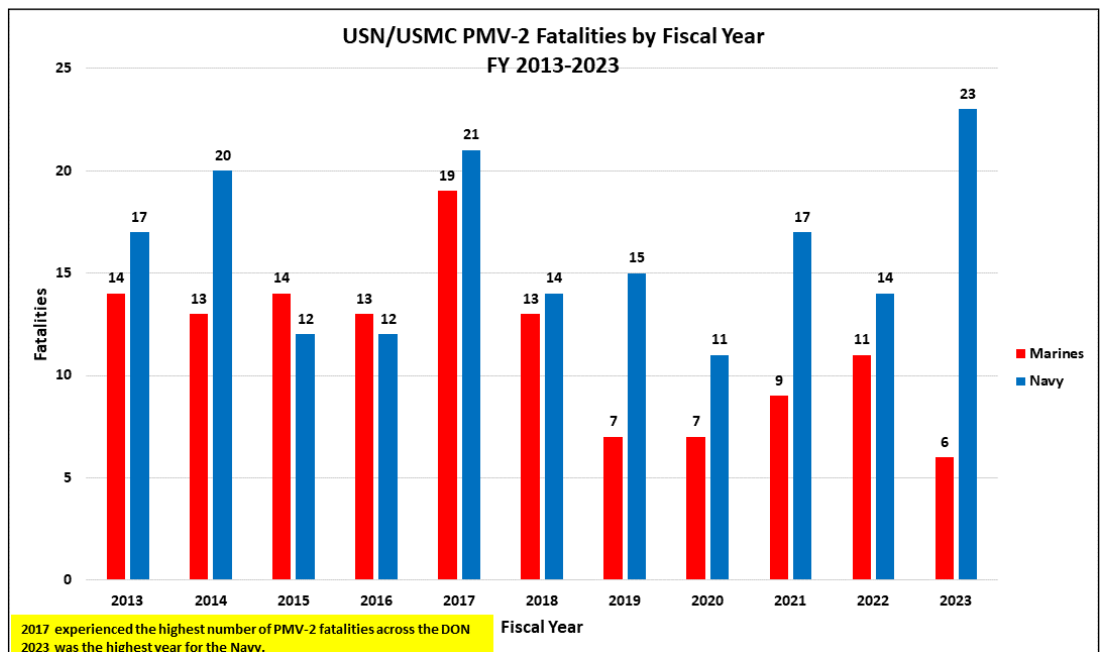


Figure 2.
Fatalities by fiscal year.



A 10-year summary

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Above are the top leading causal factors for fatalities from 2013 to 2023 as displayed in Figure 1, followed by the total number of fatalities per year between FY13-23, Figure 2.

Additional causal factors are further expounded upon below.

Rider inattention was a significant cause of fatal accidents for motorcyclists during the 10-year timeframe. Riders must not only monitor their riding but keep an eye out for other drivers. Watch out for vehicles turning, last-minute lane changes and the occasional fender bender. When cruising through city traffic, pay close attention to that inattentive driver opening their door in front of you. Do not get distracted by the sights and disregard a sign or signal and remember to stop for school buses. You can mitigate this hazard by keeping your head on a swivel and striving to stay alive.

Riding under the influence was almost double the count of reckless driving, which fell short of making the top five leading factors of motorcycle accidents. According to the National Safety Council's Policy Statement on Low Alcohol Concentrations, a third of all traffic deaths involved alcohol-impaired crashes. Impaired riding begins with the first drink. Just one drink is simply one drink too many. The only way to avoid any accident is simple: don't drink and ride.

Let's be proactive this upcoming fiscal year to educate Sailors and Marines and promote safe riding skills. Have discussions with your riders and use the mishaps in this *Rider Down* report as a training tool. Additional *Rider Down* Reports are available here, <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Resources/Motorcycle-Rider-Down-Reports-Newsletters/>



Motorcycle Mishaps

September 2023



Motorcycle Mishap Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific mishaps

Fatal mishaps (All times local)

Sept. 16, 6:15 p.m., 22-year-old E-3

Location: St. Johns, Florida

Remarks: Rider was found unconscious and severely injured in a local neighborhood. Rider was transported to hospital and pronounced deceased. No PPE was worn.

Sept. 20, time and age NR, E-5

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider was involved in a fatal motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and pronounced deceased.

Nonfatal mishaps (All times local)

Sept. 2, 1 p.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was struck from the rear by another PMV-2 while stopped in a group ride. Rider reported to the hospital three days later and treated for a concussion.

Sept. 2, 5:55 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Irvine, California

Remarks: Rider lost control. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for abrasions to their arms and legs.

Sept. 4, 3:57 p.m., age NR, E-5

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 on the side. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured leg.

Sept. 5, 8 a.m., age NR, E-6

Location: Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Remarks: Rider lost control in a roundabout and struck a curb. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a twisted ankle.

Sept. 5, 12:15 p.m., 20-year-old E-3

Location: Campo, California

Remarks: Rider lost control riding over gravel. Rider did not go to hospital.

Sept. 8, time, age and rank NR

Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider lost control on the way home from work. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for an injured right arm.

Sept. 9, 9:45 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider rolled the motorcycle on an exit ramp. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured clavicle and rib.

Sept. 9, 12:49 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Dahlgren, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4, failing to yield. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a dislocated hip, lacerations and minor internal bleeding.

Sept. 11, 5 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider laid down the bike to avoid collision due to PMV-4 slamming on their brakes. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Sept. 12, 8 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost control approaching a red light from sand gravel and construction debris. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Sept. 14, 8:30 a.m., age NR, E-3

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was cut off by a PMV-4. Rider lost control when they applied their throttle in error while trying to apply brakes. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Sept. 15, 2 a.m., age NR E-3

Location: Oceanside, California

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV perpendicular. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for multiple face fractures, shattered ribs, broken neck, punctured lungs, fractured pelvis, broken arms, possible blindness from head trauma and is in a drug-induced coma.

Sept. 15, 9 p.m., age NR, O-3

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 at a perpendicular angle. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Sept. 16, 11:30 a.m., 38-year-old E-5

Location: Tampa, Florida

Remarks: Rider was in a motorcycle accident while riding with two other riders. The lead biker merged into the right traffic lane simultaneously with a car. The car hit the lead rider, which caused the member to come to a halt to avoid the collision. To avoid the collision, a third rider behind the member fell off their bike, which continued to slide on the ground and eventually hit the member's bike, sending them into the guard rail.

Sept. 16, 11 p.m., 20-year-old E-4

Location: Yigo, Guam

Remarks: Rider misjudged a turn and lost control. Rider later went to the hospital and was treated for minor injuries.

Sept. 17, 7:15 a.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in a hit-and-run sideswipe. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash and extensive bruising.

Sept. 17, 10 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: California

Remarks: Rider was cut off by a PMV-4 and lost control when they slammed on their brakes. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right elbow, right pelvis and C9 fracture.

Sept. 19, 6:10 a.m., age NR, O-3

Location: Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for severe injuries.

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Motorcycle Mishaps

September 2023

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Sept. 19, 8:45 a.m., age and rank NR
Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was thrown from their motorcycle and lost consciousness. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Sept. 19, 9:45 a.m., age and rank NR
Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia
Remarks: Rider applied throttle instead of brakes and lost control during a Basic Rider Course. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right clavicle.

Sept. 19, 11:45 p.m., 27-year-old E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was turning right and lost control when a PMV-4 cut them off. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Sept. 20, 6:50 a.m., 29-year-old E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a concussion, bruising on the left shin and right thigh, arms and shoulder.

Sept. 20, 3:45 p.m., 40-year-old E-7
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Sept. 22, 7:00 p.m., 25-year-old E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV, which pulled out in front while turning right. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right arm, both wrists and lacerated liver.

Sept. 22, time, age and rank NR
Location: North Chicago, Illinois
Remarks: Rider was struck perpendicular by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for sustained injuries.

Sept. 22, 5:30 p.m., age NR, E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 from behind. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a sprained ankle and three fractured vertebrae.

Sept. 29, 5:55 p.m., 24-year-old E-3
Location: Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
Remarks: Rider was cut off by a PMV-4, resulting in the Rider laying down the bike. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash.



U.S. Marines with 2d Marine Division (MARDIV) participate in a Motorcycle Awareness event on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 21, 2023. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ethan Miller)



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

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