



Rider Down is a monthly update of motorcycle crashes 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 crash data from Naval Safety Command.

Navy	Total non-fatal crashes this report: 24	Marine Corps
Rider fatalities this report: 3	Total fatalities this report: 3	Rider fatalities this report: 0
Rider fatalities for FY 24: 7		Rider fatalities for FY 24: 6

Be seen or die on the scene!

By Juan Aguilar
Naval Safety Command

It's concerning to learn the leading cause of motorcycle crashes in February was private motor vehicles (PMV-4s) hitting riders. The Navy has lost seven riders this fiscal year (FY) between October and February, sadly trending equally to FY23. The Marines have tripled fatalities (six) for FY24 during the same timeframe, as shown in Figure 1.

There were 27 crashes in February, of which three Navy fatality crashes occurred in Florida (2) and South Carolina (1). The 24 non-fatal motorcycle crashes in February were in California (8), Florida (6), Virginia (3), North Carolina (3), Oklahoma (1), Italy (1) and Washington (1). One crash occurred with the state not reported.

- Thirteen (48%) crashes involved PMV-4s hitting a rider.
 - Two crashes resulted in fatalities.
 - One crash resulted in the amputation of the rider's leg.
- Eight (30%) crashes involved rider inexperience.
 - One crash resulted in a fatality.
- Three (11%) crashes engaged debris on the road.
- Two (7%) crashes were the result of environmental conditions.
- One (4%) crash had no details reported.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes nearly half of motorcycle accidents happen at intersections

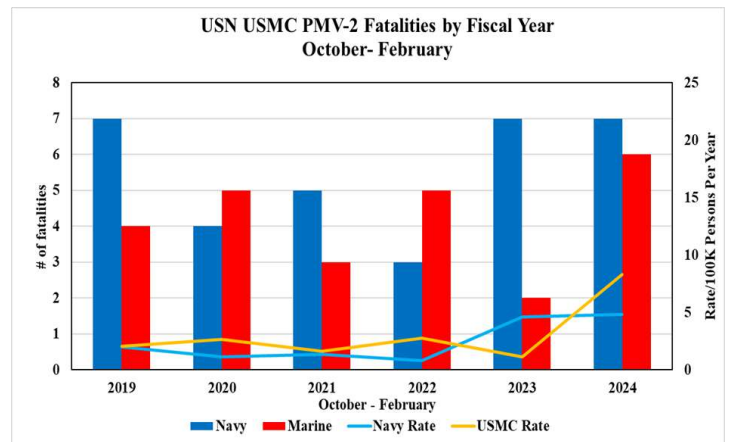


Figure 1 depicts Navy and Marine Corps reported motorcycle fatalities by fiscal year from 2019 to 2024 to date.

and it's troubling to hear that three of the recent crashes in February resulted in a fatality.

Crashes at intersections can often be attributed to left-turning PMV-4s failing to notice approaching riders or rear-end collisions that occur when PMV-4s collide with stopped motorcycles. To help prevent these types of crashes, drivers of all vehicles should take extra care when approaching intersections, look out for approaching motorcycles and avoid rear-ending stopped motorcycles.

As the weather begins to turn warmer, motorcycle riders who have been absent during the cold months are beginning

Remain vigilant

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to return to the roads in the United States and other parts of the world. Motorcycle riders need to exercise caution and visibility when sharing the road with other private motor vehicles (PMV-4), especially those who may not be accustomed to seeing them on the road. Riders should always follow traffic rules and regulations, stay visible in drivers' mirrors and avoid blind spots. They should also follow all traffic rules and regulations and remain current on laws, especially in their state or region.

Not all PMV-4 drivers follow the rules of the road and motorcycle riders must remain vigilant and prioritize their safety. It's essential to be on the lookout for sudden lane changes or stops and to maintain a safe riding distance from other vehicles. When scanning the road, it's a good idea to check PMV-4 tires for any indication of emergency maneuvers.

Additionally, riders should always ride in the lane position that gives them the best visibility and always stay alert. Riding at a safe distance is also critical to ensure you have enough time to react to any sudden changes in traffic.

- If you want to refine your riding skills, contact your motorcycle safety representative (MSR) or command riding group coach for assistance. These resources can provide valuable guidance and training to help you become a safer and more skilled rider.

- Motorcycle riders must practice avoiding hazards so they can react quickly and calmly when they appear. You may need to make quick turns to avoid an object or hazard. When doing so, lean your bike in the direction you want to turn and press on the inside of the hand grip on the same side. Remember not to brake and swerve simultaneously, as this could cause you to lose control of your bike. By practicing these techniques, you can improve your ability to avoid hazards and stay safe on the road.
- Riding a motorcycle can be dangerous and wet road conditions can compound the risks. Riders should take extra precautions when riding in inclement weather, including being mindful of the center of the lane, which often accumulates more oils from PMV-4s. Staying on one side of the lane can help minimize the risk of being involved in a crash. By being aware of these hazards and taking appropriate precautions, riders can help ensure their safety on the road.

MSRs, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers should continue ensuring their personnel are current with training and licensing. Let's all do our part to promote road safety and prevent crashes. Use the *Rider Down* reports as part of your safety and training briefs.

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



U.S. Marines with 2d Marine Division (MARDIV) participate in a Motorcycle Awareness event on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 21, 2023. The Motorcycle Awareness event allowed Marines from 2d MARDIV to practice motorcycle safety with fellow riders in a controlled environment. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ethan Miller)



Motorcycle Crashes

FEBRUARY 2024



Motorcycle Crash Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific crashes

All times local

Fatal Crashes

Feb. 3, 7:04 p.m., 22-year-old O-1

Location: Pensacola, Florida

Remarks: Rider was involved in a fatal motorcycle crash at an intersection from a PMV-4 turning left.

Feb. 20, 6:13 p.m., 21-year-old E-4

Location: Pensacola, Florida

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash with a PMV-4 switching lanes. Rider succumbed to injuries at the hospital.

Feb. 23, 10:01 p.m., 18-year-old E-3

Location: Charleston, South Carolina

Remarks: Rider lost control and struck a curb, continued in the grass striking a pole and hitting a fence before being ejected. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

Source: [North Charleston police say 3 dead in vehicle collisions | News | postandcourier.com](#)

Nonfatal Crashes

Feb. 3, 10:30 p.m., 26-year-old E-4

Location: Burbank, California

Remarks: Rider lost their balance at an intersection while stopping and fell over due to wet weather conditions and oil on the road. Rider was transported to hospital the next day and treated for a sprained foot.

Feb. 4, 6:40 a.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 as they were following too close. Rider was unable to stop when the PMV-4 came to a stop. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Feb. 9, 11 a.m., 24-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was hit by and knocked off their motorcycle by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for scrapes and bruises.

Feb. 9, 5 p.m., 21-year-old E-3

Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider hit a large bump in a parking lot, lost control while trying to avoid an oncoming PMV-4 and curb. Rider dropped their bike, which skidded about 10 feet. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a sprained ankle.

Feb. 10, 3:30 p.m., 21-year-old E-4

Location: Piney Green, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider One lost control driving over a patch of gravel in a turn in front of Rider Two, which caused Rider Two to lose control and ride over Rider One's neck. Rider One was transported to hospital and treated for a spinal fracture, ACL tear, left wrist fracture and suffered memory loss.

Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider collided with a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Feb. 11, 3:05 p.m., 21-year-old E-3

Location: Camp Pendleton, California

Remarks: Rider ran over an object in the road (knife) and lost control. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Feb. 12, 1:35 p.m., age NR E-6

Location: Temecula, California

Remarks: Rider was exiting a parking lot when their fingers slipped on the clutch, causing their bike to accelerate quickly, striking a PMV-4. Rider was practicing the basics of motorcycle riding. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured left tibia.

Feb. 12, 5:45 p.m., age NR E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 that veered into their lane. The PMV-4 did not stop. Rider was transported to hospital the next day and treated for injuries sustained.

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Motorcycle Crashes

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Feb. 13, 11:53 a.m., 23-year-old E-4
Location: Bremerton, Washington
Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 that pulled in front of them after being stopped at a stop sign. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Feb. 14, 5:08 p.m., age NR, E-3
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was lane splitting going 8 mph when a PMV-4 clipped the left side of their bike resulting in the rider crashing into a stopped PMV-4. Rider was laying on the pavement for 15-20 minutes before EMT's arrival on scene, trying to stay conscious. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a displaced hip, pulled right groin and a bruised elbow.

Feb. 16, 2 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: Los Angeles, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by a merging PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for fractured ankles.

Feb. 18, 10:22 a.m., 22-year-old E-4
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Remarks: Rider lost control of government-owned motorcycle while attending a Basic Rider Safety Course. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured foot.

Feb. 19, 7:50 a.m., age and rank NR
Location: Province of Caserta, Italy
Remarks: Rider lost control in a roundabout from wet road conditions resulting in a slide. Rider tried to catch themselves using their arm. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured wrist.

Feb. 19, 4 p.m., age NR, E-6
Location: Gum Branch, North Carolina
Remarks: Rider clipped a curb and rode off the road. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured wrist and road rash.

Feb. 21, 8 p.m., 27-year-old E-5
Location: Fresno, California
Remarks: Rider was assisting a shipmate with a motorcycle purchase as they were awaiting their endorsement. As the rider left the dealership with the shipmate's motorcycle, shifting into second gear, a PMV-4 pulled into the riders' lane and crashed into

the rider. Rider was ejected about 20 feet. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to wrist and other injuries sustained. Rider stayed in the hospital for one day and is 90 days limited light duty (LLD).

Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m., 19-year-old E-3
Location: Piedmont, Oklahoma
Remarks: Rider flipped over their bike using their front brake as a PMV-4 suddenly braked. The PMV-4 drove off. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a concussion, sprained wrist and road rash.

Feb. 22, 4 a.m., 19-year-old E-4
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was pushed over the median by a PMV-4 crossing into the southbound lanes and collided with a tree. Rider was transported to hospital and is reportedly in stable condition after surgery on the femur (partial amputation) and arm and is recovering. Length of stay in hospital is undetermined.

Feb. 22, 4:15 p.m., 38-year-old E-6
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 that was switching lanes. Rider was able to keep their PMV-2 upright. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries sustained.

Feb. 22, 1 p.m., 38-year-old E-5
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Remarks: Rider was late changing lanes to make a right-hand turn. Attempting to change lanes quickly, Rider did not see the PMV-4 behind them which had already changed lanes and struck the PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for superficial road rash on right arm and a contusion on right foot.

Feb. 23, time, age, rank NR
Location: NR
Remarks: Rider was struck by oncoming PMV-4 that turned into their lane. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m., 22-year-old E-5
Location: Key West, Florida

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Motorcycle Crashes

FEBRUARY 2024



A U.S. Marine with 2d Marine Division turns a corner during a Motorcycle Awareness event on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 21, 2023. The event allowed Marines from 2d MARDIV to practice motorcycle safety with fellow riders in a controlled environment. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ethan Miller)

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Remarks: Rider lost control and laid down motorcycle. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash.

Feb. 25, 8 p.m., 30-year-old E-5
Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider tipped over bike. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a concussion.

Feb. 27, 7:56 a.m., 19-year-old E-2
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash at an intersection. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

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