



*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: 21	Marine Corps
Rider fatalities this report: <b>2</b>	Total fatalities this report: <b>3</b>	Rider fatalities this report: <b>1</b>
Rider fatalities for FY 24: <b>4</b>		Rider fatalities for FY 24: <b>6</b>

# Winter poses additional safety concerns

**By Brian Best**  
Naval Safety Command

Year-round riders remember the challenges and risks of cold weather before getting on the road. Batteries don't work as well in the winter and the oil weight may require adjustment to compensate for lower temperatures. Having a mechanic check your bike to see if it is ready for cold weather is a good idea. Riding in adverse weather conditions like rain, snow or low temperatures increases your risk level. Always have an alert rider mentality before you ride and dress for the conditions. Low temperatures create a higher risk of cold-related dangers like hypothermia or frostbite. Your reaction times may be slower in colder climates and traction can be problematic on wet, icy or snowy roads. Follow these guidelines:

- Slow down and use extreme caution while riding in the snow.
- Cold can also compromise your visibility if your visor fogs up. Consider using a full-face helmet with an anti-fog visor to help you see the road.
- Leave more distance in front and behind you.
- Be more visible; turn lights on and consider high-visibility yellow or orange riding gear.
- Know your bike's systems and be comfortable using them, i.e., anti-lock brakes or motorcycle stability/traction control system.
- Beware of long stops. Cold tires do not grip as well as warm tires. In the winter, tires cool down faster and this may affect their performance and traction.

Twenty-four motorcycle crashes occurred across the

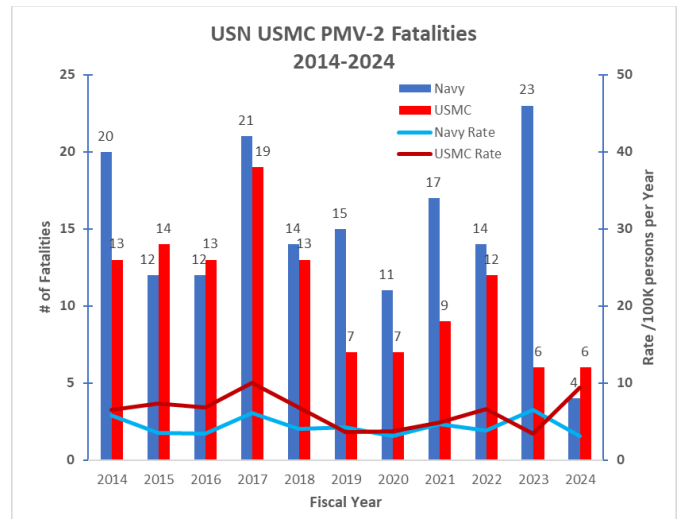


Figure 1. Navy and Marine Corps reported motorcycle fatalities by fiscal year from 2014 to 2024.

Naval Enterprise in January. Most crashes this month occurred during the week and after 4 p.m. The top three leading causes were riders having little to no training, riders crashing their bikes into slower or stopped private motor vehicles (PMV-4) and riding while intoxicated. There were four crashes this month where a PMV-4 crashed into riders. The fiscal 2024 PMV-2 fatalities for the Navy is trending downward with a year-to-date average rate of 3.13, whereas the Marine Corps is trending upward with a 9.4 average over the same timeframe, Figure 1.

See *Winter Riding Safety*, page 2

## Rider Down Reports are available at

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

## Winter riding safety

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Riders' training is essential, as is time in the seat. If you have been deployed for an extended time or need refresher training, contact your command's motorcycle safety representative (MSR) for assistance. The MSRs, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers use the start of the new year as a checkpoint to ensure their personnel are current with their training and licensing. Use the *Rider Down* reports as part of your safety and training briefs.

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



(Image courtesy of Shutterstock)



U.S. Navy photo by Amy Robinson



# Motorcycle Crashes

## January 2024



### Motorcycle Crash Legend

NR represents information not reported

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

All times local

### Fatal Crashes

Jan. 5, 11:05 p.m., 27-year-old E-6  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash. The member was ejected from the motorcycle after striking a disabled vehicle. Rider succumbed to their injuries at the scene.

Jan. 28, time and age NR, E-5  
Location: Arizona  
Remarks: Rider was traveling at a high rate of speed and crashed into the rear of a PMV-4. Rider succumbed to their injuries at the scene.

Jan. 30, 8 p.m. 22-year-old E-3  
Location: Hampton, Virginia  
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider succumbed to their injuries at the scene.

### Nonfatal Crashes

Jan. 3, 1:55 p.m., 21-year-old E-4  
Location: Beaufort, South Carolina  
Remarks: Rider laid down their PMV-2 to avoid a crash with a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor road rash on the hand, knees and shoulder.

Jan. 4, 4:40 p.m., 21-year-old E-4  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider lost control while avoiding a collision resulting in a slide. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for fractured bones, road rash and bruises.

Jan. 5, 9:30 p.m., 22-year-old E-1  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider was involved in a high-speed crash. Rider was operating a motorcycle intoxicated and without a license. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash and a pelvic fracture.

Jan. 6, 9:30 p.m., age and rank NR  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for multiple bone fractures and injuries to their head.

Jan. 10, 6:50 a.m., 20-year-old E-4  
Location: Lemoore, California  
Remarks: Rider was riding at a low speed (3 mph) when they ran over a bump in the road and laid the bike down on their right leg. Rider took themselves to hospital and was treated for minor injuries.

Jan. 10, 5 p.m., 35-year-old E-4  
Location: Chula Vista, California  
Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 as they could not stop when the brakes locked up. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for fractured ribs and clavicle.

Jan. 10, 10:30 p.m., age and rank NR  
Location: San Diego, California  
Remarks: Rider and civilian rider were struck by a PMV-4 running a red traffic light. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their tailbone and knee.

Jan. 12, 10:45 a.m., age and rank NR  
Location: Jamul, California  
Remarks: Rider misjudged a corner by riding wide, leaning too far, ended in a lower side crash and slid into a parked PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Jan. 12, 11:20 p.m., 23-year-old E-5  
Location: Lemon Grove, California  
Remarks: Rider went out for a night ride. The street was too dark for SVM to see a patch of gravel in the middle of the intersection. SVM turned into the gravel, causing the bike to slide out from under them, throwing the SVM onto their shoulder. SVM was wearing all the appropriate PPE and walked away with a dislocated AC in their left shoulder.

Jan. 13, 10 p.m., 21-year-old E-1  
Location: Houston, Texas  
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was operating a motorcycle without

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# Motorcycle Crashes

January 2024

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a license and training. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured leg and sternum.

Jan. 15, 2:30 p.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Yuma, Arizona

Remarks: Rider lost control and crashed. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their hand.

Jan. 16, 9 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Yuma, Arizona

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured femur, tibia and fibula.

Jan. 16, 11:30 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Pensacola, Florida

Remarks: Rider lost traction leaving a parking lot. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their elbow and road rash.

Jan. 17, 8:30 a.m., 27-year-old, E-5

Location: Sasebo, Japan

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their elbow, back and shoulder.

Jan. 23, 5:30 p.m., 31-year-old, E-6\*

Location: Rota, Spain

Remarks: Rider on an electric scooter was involved in a crash. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for serious injuries to their back.

Jan. 23, 5 p.m., 22-year-old, E-5

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider was practicing their riding skills when they pulled the throttle too much, turned around in a cul-de-sac and struck a house. Rider was transported to hospital the next day and treated for minor injuries.

Jan. 24, 7:18 a.m., 38-year-old, E-6

Location: Suffolk, Virginia

Remarks: A PMV-4 turning left in a parking lot struck the rider. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Jan. 24, 10:56 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: Tampa, Florida

Remarks: Rider was cut off by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their left knee and foot and road rash.

Jan. 25, 1 p.m., 22-year-old, E-6

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was thrown over the handlebars from emergency braking as a PMV-4 in front stopped suddenly. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their left wrist and both knees.

Jan. 26, 10:23 a.m., 24-year-old, E-6

Location: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider rode over a pothole, resulting in laying down their bike. Rider was transported to a local hospital for observation. No injuries were noted.

Jan. 27, 12:30 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their ankle.

*\*OPNAV 5100.23 Glossary G-21*

*Motor Vehicle - Any transportation device with a motor powered by fossil fuels, electricity or other external sources or energy; except devices moved by human power or used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks. For the purpose of this chapter, LSVs, neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs), mopeds and scooters are considered motor vehicles when operated on the highways.*



## ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

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