



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: 38	Marine Corps
Rider fatalities this report: 3	Total fatalities this report: 6	Rider fatalities this report: 3
Rider fatalities for FY 24: 10		Rider fatalities for FY 24: 9

Spring forward! Do not fall back

By Juan Aguilar
Naval Safety Command

Spring is finally here; and many riders are excited to get back on their motorcycles and hit the open road. However, spring also arrived with some sobering statistics for our motorcycle community. There were many motorcycle crashes in March, with private motor vehicles (PMV-4s) striking riders or riders colliding with motorists leading the trend. Unfortunately, the naval enterprise has lost 19 riders, comprised of 10 Sailors and nine Marines between October and March. In March, there were

44 crashes, with three Marine fatalities across Japan, Arizona and California and three Navy fatalities in Washington and Virginia. The 38 non-fatal motorcycle crashes in March were spread across several states and countries. California lead with 16 crashes and one fatality.

It's concerning to see so many crashes happening, especially when 39% occur during the afternoon hours between 2 and 6 p.m.

March breakdown:

- 14 (32%) crashes involved rider inexperience.
- 12 (27%) crashes involving PMV-4s hitting a rider.
- 8 (18%) crashes had no details reported.
- 3 (7%) crashes involving riders hitting a PMV-4.
- 3 (7%) crashes with another PMV-2.
- 2 (5%) crashes were the result of environmental conditions.
- 2 (5%) crashes involved excessive speed.

Some riders may face unique challenges that riders in warmer states like California and Florida don't have to worry about. Fall and winter months are tough with ever-changing weather conditions and spring is no different, with torrential rains and flooded roads making riding conditions hazardous. The roads can be dangerous, especially when your motorcycle breaks down or distracted PMV-4 drivers are added to the mix. This combination can lead to fatal crashes in no time.

USN/USMC PMV-2 Fatalities by Fiscal Year
FY 2014-2024

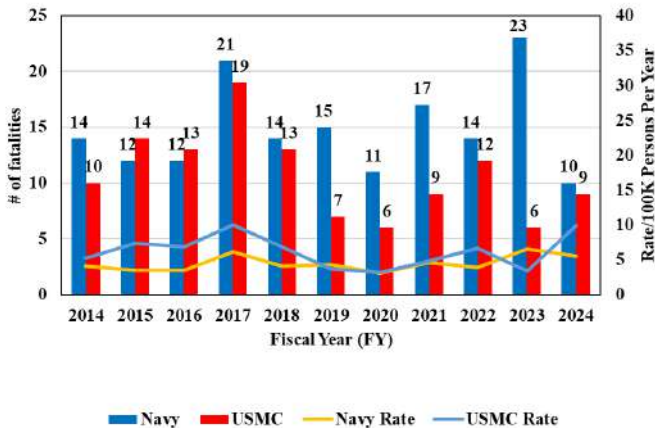


Figure 1 depicts Navy and Marine Corps reported motorcycle fatalities by fiscal year from 2014 to date.

Spring forward

(Continued from Page 1)

Many motorcycles have been sitting in storage, gathering dust all winter, so it's crucial to have a qualified technician check your motorcycle's road readiness. You don't want your motorcycle to break down or malfunction when you need it the most, leaving you stranded on a dark, lonely road. Always carry an emergency kit with light flares or lights to warn drivers if you are on the side of the road. If you break down, remain with your motorcycle as far away from traffic as possible and await emergency services. Pedestrian fatalities can be just as deadly if not worse than a motorcycle crash. The Navy and Marine Corps have had 10 pedestrian fatalities since 2021. According to the National Safety Council, accidents involving pedestrians accounted for 19.4% of all deaths in 2021.

Remember, you can take all the classes, practice your skills and

wear all the correct personal protective equipment, but one person driving under the influence can quickly end it all. Drinking and drugged driving do not mix for you or anyone sharing the road with you. Let's all be responsible and safe riders, enjoying the freedom and thrill of riding our motorcycles without worrying about crashes and injuries.

Motorcycle safety representatives, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers, continue to ensure your 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/>.



Sailors stationed aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), ride across San Diego on the Command Safety Motorcycle Ride to promote safety and morale for command riders, Oct. 20, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Ismael Martinez)



Motorcycle Crashes

MARCH 2024



Motorcycle Crash Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific crashes

All times local

Fatal Crashes

March 7, 6:50 p.m., age NR E-5

Location: Okinawa, Japan

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 making a right turn ahead of them. Rider was thrown off the motorcycle. The service member was transported to hospital and treated for severe injuries and massive hemorrhaging. Rider succumbed to injuries despite the immediate medical care received.

March 15, 12 a.m., 37-year-old E-6

Location: Yuma, Arizona

Remarks: A rider on a Harley Davidson attempted to make a turn and collided with another Harley Davidson rider. Rider succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Although still under investigation, alcohol appears to be a factor in this crash.

March 22, 11:34 a.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Julian, California

Remarks: Rider was in a group ride with two other riders when they collided with a PMV-4. Rider succumbed to injuries. Another rider (civilian) was airlifted to a hospital with moderate injuries and a passenger, transported by ambulance to another hospital, later succumbed to their injuries.

March 29, 6:59 p.m., age NR E-7

Location: Coupeville, Washington

Remarks: Rider was involved in a fatal motorcycle crash. Rider collided with another vehicle. Rider had returned from deployment to Japan in December 2023.

March 29, 11:15 p.m., age NR E-3

Location: Dahlgren, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was driving at excessive speed, lost control of the motorcycle and ran off the road. Rider was pronounced dead on the scene. Basic rider course was completed just weeks before. Service member was wearing all required PPE.

March 31, 12 p.m., 19-year-old E-3

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in a single-vehicle accident, lost control of the motorcycle and ran off the road. Rider underwent surgery April 1 and their condition deteriorated. At about 12:45 p.m. April 3, the rider's family removed rider from life support based on a medical professional's advice and rider was pronounced deceased.

Nonfatal Mishaps

March 1, 10:30 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash. Rider was transported to

hospital and treated for a fractured right clavicle. Rider had surgery and was placed on 30-day convalescent leave.

March 1, 4 p.m., 36-year-old E-6

Location: Hampton, Virginia

Remarks: SVM was riding a motorcycle and decided to help another rider on the side of the road. The PMV-4 in front of the rider stopped abruptly causing the rider to swerve to avoid a collision. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a torn ligament in the right shoulder and a fractured left elbow.

March 1, 7 p.m., 28-year-old E-6

Location: Karbabad, Bahrain

Remarks: Rider and passenger lost their balance. Rider and passenger were transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

March 3, 10 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Remarks: Rider and passenger were struck by a PMV-4 driver distracted by their phone at an intersection. Rider (passenger) was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.
* *Maintain your head on a swivel during your ride. If you notice drivers are not keeping their eyes on the road, change lanes or move onto the shoulder. Simple evasive maneuvers will help ensure you are not another "struck by PMV-4" statistic.*

March 3, 2:01 p.m., 26-year-old E-6

Location: Hubert, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider collided with a PMV-4 while travelling at a high rate of speed. Rider was ejected from the motorcycle. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.
* *Speed kills, especially when there are no occupant protection measures to protect riders in cases like this. If the rider had obeyed the posted speed limits, they would have had plenty of reaction time to slow down, brake properly and avoid rear-ending the PMV-4 ahead.*

March 3, 3:02 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: Linthicum Heights, Maryland

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their collarbone and a hip fracture.

March 3, 4:17 p.m., 23-year-old E-4

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider conducted a left turn and proceeded west through a green light at an intersection. The PMV-4 was heading east in left turn lane to turn at the intersection. As the PMV-4 took the left turn, they noticed the rider toward them and came to a complete stop, blocking both lanes of traffic heading west. The rider applied their brakes but could not stop in time and collided with the car on the passenger side front fender, causing the rider to be ejected from the motorcycle and land on the driver's vehicle.

March 3, 5:45 p.m., 38-year-old E-7

Location: National City, California

Remarks: This is a cautionary tale of a group of motorcycle

(Continued on Page 4)

Motorcycle Crashes

MARCH 2024

(Continued from Page 3)

riders returning from Daytona Bike Week. They were traveling at 50 mph when a parked car suddenly backed out and stopped perpendicular to the road, blocking their path. The riders had to react quickly to avoid a collision. SVM started braking hard and looking to exit to the right while the trike in front of them began moving left. But the parked car started moving forward, causing the trike to swerve right and block SVM's exit plan. SVM collided with the back of the trike and was ejected from their motorcycle.

**If not for the quick reflexes of the trailing motorcyclist, the situation could have been much worse. This accident is a stark reminder of the importance of being aware of your surroundings on the road. Always keep a safe distance from parked cars and if you see a potential hazard, slow down and be prepared to take evasive action.*

March 4, 3:30 p.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Daytona Beach, Florida

Remarks: While test-riding a motorcycle, which the rider had no experience on, the rider drifted off the side of the road due to gravel. Rider flew off the bike and sustained a fractured wrist, road rash and lacerations of the left arm and right leg. Service member was transported to hospital and received 17 stitches on the right calf, 16 stitches on the left arm and a splint on the right wrist.

**Do not push the limits if you do not have hands-on experience in a specific motorcycle. People can always take the class and use a loaner bike rather than risk injury and possible financial issues due to a damaged motorcycle. Local roads are not the best training environments!*

March 5, 11 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was attending a motorcycle safety course when they dropped their bike in a turn. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a closed fracture to their right foot. Rider lost workdays.

March 5, 11:40 a.m., 30-year-old E-6

Location: National City, California

Remarks: Rider was found unresponsive by a civilian motorist. Rider was transported to hospital and is currently stable but in critical condition.

**Let someone know when you go out for a leisure ride and check in periodically. The time lost unresponsive on the side of the road can make a difference in life-threatening situations.*

March 5, 4:30 p.m., 21-year-old E-4

Location: Oceanside, California

Remarks: A single-vehicle crash while operating a sports bike. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for road rash.

March 5, 7 p.m., 26-year-old E-3

Location: Fontana, California

Remarks: Rider was in the slow lane when a vehicle ahead began merging from the fast lane across four lanes of traffic to exit without using their turn signal. The vehicle hit the person's motorcycle and ejected them from their motorcycle, landing in the middle of the lane where they then crawled to the side of the

road. The rider was transported to hospital and treated for multiple injuries reported throughout the body.

March 6, 9 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: Gulfport, Mississippi

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

March 9, 3:30 p.m., 34-year-old O-2

Location: Julian, California

Remarks: Rider lost control of their bike while negotiating a curve and slid into the grass. Rider sustained road rash and three fractures in the ankle.

**This rider completed the Advanced Rider Course (ARC) in June 2023 and wore all the required personal protective equipment. Despite following all the training and procedures, the rider was given 30 days of light duty and weekly follow-up appointments with an orthopedic doctor. It is unclear whether speed was a factor in the accident, but it's always a good idea for riders of any age or pay grade to take refresher training.*

March 10, 1 a.m., 26-year-old E-5

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider on a scooter was cut off by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured scapula and possible TBI. Rider received two days SIQ and 30 days LLD.

**Low speed vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, mopeds and scooters are considered motor vehicles when operated on the highways.*

March 11, 3:30 p.m., age NR E-4

Location: Gulfport, Mississippi

Remarks: Rider was attending ARC when their foot slipped off their pedal and was pulled under their bike. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their tibia.

March 12, 5 p.m., 20-year-old rank E-3

Location: Camp Pendleton, California

Remarks: Rider was driving the speed limit on a highway when a PMV-4 suddenly entered their lane and collided with the rider. The impact caused the rider to be thrown off the motorcycle and lose consciousness. They were immediately taken to a nearby hospital where they regained consciousness and treated for a left knee injury and mild concussion. Rider stayed in the hospital for two days and had five days SIQ. Rider is currently on light duty, recovering and awaiting MRI scan results for knee injury. The rider had not attended basic riders course (BRC).

March 12, 9:45 p.m., 24-year-old rank NR

Location: Pensacola, Florida

Remarks: Rider was T-boned by a civilian PMV-2. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right foot.

March 14, 2:15 p.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: National City, California

Remarks: Rider was thrown over their handlebars after riding through a pothole. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a concussion and road rash. Rider wore all required PPE and completed BRC.

(Continued on Page 5)

Motorcycle Crashes

MARCH 2024

(Continued from Page 4)

March 15, 11 a.m., 23-year-old E-5

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider left work for the day and stopped at an intersection waiting their turn to cross the intersection. The traffic lights were operating in "out of service mode" when a PMV-4 struck the rider from behind. Rider was able to remain upright despite the severe impact to the rear. Rider was evaluated by a hospital for injuries to their head, neck and spine. Rider attended BRC in October 2023 and is enrolled in the Naval Base San Diego Motorcycle Safety Program.

March 16, 12:30 p.m., 18-year-old E-3

Location: Milton, Florida

Remarks: The rider was traveling 10 MPH over the speed limit (45 mph) while following a box truck in the middle lane of a three-lane road. The rider overtook the box truck in the third lane and then returned to the middle lane in front of the truck but collided with another PMV-4 that had switched lanes from the left lane into the middle lane. The rider was immediately taken to hospital where they were treated for a dislocated shoulder, a fractured wrist and road rash. The PMV-4 fled the scene.

March 17, 11:20 a.m., 24-year-old E-4

Location: Tapoco, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider was in a group ride known for 318 curves over 11 miles with tight turns. Rider came upon a sharp left curve and was unable to complete the turn, resulting in driving straight off the road into a dirt area. Rider did not go to medical.

March 17, 2:30 p.m., 36-year-old E-6

Location: Ventura, California

Remarks: Rider collided with a PMV-4 at an intersection. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries to their elbow.

**Crashes occur most often in curves and intersections. Review the BRC E-Rider Course (Basic Street Strategies) that provides more information on properly positioning your motorcycle on the road, see and be seen and focusing on your mental processing to make good quick judgements while riding. <https://msfusa.link/286529>*

March 18, 12:09 a.m., 32-year-old E-6

Location: Louisville, Alabama

Remarks: Rider noticed their radiator was overheated and attempted to open the cap under pressure resulting in the rider suffering burns to the left side of the torso. Rider was transported to hospital and sent to a Burn Center.

**Before riding, always perform a T-CLOCS inspection. The "O" in T-CLOCS stands for Oil: "If you have a liquid-cooled engine, check the coolant level as directed in the owner's manual. Never open the radiator cap when the engine is hot". Review the BRC E-Rider Course to refresh your knowledge performing T-CLOCKS inspection, <https://msfusa.link/286529>.*

March 18, 4:25 a.m., 23-year-old E-6

Location: Portsmouth, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control of the bike exiting the highway. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for multiple fractured ribs. Rider attended BRC in April 2023.

**When approaching a curve at an exit, remember SEE which means: Searching for hazards, Evaluating the situation and*



Executing an appropriate response. Using SEE throughout a curve will help to make on-the-fly adjustments to keep a safety margin. <https://msfusa.link/286529>

March 18, 5:50 p.m., age NR E-6

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was traveling approximately 25 mph and rear ended a PMV-4 that was in front of them. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their ring and middle finger. Rider received 30-day convalescent leave. Rider stated they have no recollection of getting into the accident or being transported to the hospital. Rider reported they were charged with careless driving and the motorcycle was totaled.

March 19, 6:30 p.m., 43-year-old E-8

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control exiting the highway when they ran over loose material. Rider dropped the bike on the right side and separated as the motorcycle continued into the guardrail. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for three fractured ribs and a concussion.

March 20, 6:30 p.m., 43-year-old E-8

Location: California

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained. The right leg was amputated.

March 20, 11 p.m., 24-year-old E-4

Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider was traveling 25-25 mph rounding a turn when their peg hit the ground resulting in a crash. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a right knee laceration and road rash.

(Continued on Page 6)

ESAMS no longer available, use RMI-SIR for safety reporting

Effective immediately, mishaps, hazards (including near-misses) and incidents can no longer be submitted in ESAMS. All reports must now be submitted into the Risk Management Information- Streamlined Incident Reporting System (RMI-SIR). RMI is the official program of record and is the sole official database for safety reporting. To establish an RMI account for official reporting, visit afsas.safety.af.mil/my.policy

Motorcycle Crashes

MARCH 2024

(Continued from Page 5)

March 21, 4 p.m., 27-year-old E-5

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained. Rider attended BRC in October 2023 but had not attended ARC.

March 21, 5:40 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: NR

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

March 21, 6:30 p.m., 21-year-old E-5

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was lane splitting 30 mph between lanes 3 and 4, when a PMV-4 attempted to change lanes. This resulted in the rider colliding with the driver's side door. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries.

March 21, 10:30 p.m., 33-year-old E-7

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was riding downhill around 30 mph and suddenly hit the brakes. The motorcycle slid as a result and fell landing on their left-side lower body. Rider was transported to hospital and scheduled for surgery for non-life-threatening injuries. Rider attended BRC in July 2017 and had not attended ARC.

March 22, 4 p.m., 22-year-old E-3

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider crashed into a PMV-4 in front of them due to their clutch slipping and gear still engaged. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for two fractured bones.

March 24, 1:30 a.m., age NR, E-6

Location: Riverside, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for an amputation to their left leg below the knee.

March 28, 6:10 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Bangor, Washington

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

March 28, 6:30 p.m., 19-year-old E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider felt the vehicle besides them was getting too close. Rider over-corrected and lost control of their motorcycle. Rider was wearing all protective gear and was released with minor cuts and scrapes. The rider completed the BRC in August 2023.

Non-fatal crashes missing from February's report.

Feb. 5, 5:00 p.m., 25-year-old E-5

Location: Gorst, Washington

Remarks: The rider lost control of their motorcycle while transiting a local road and crashed. Rider was transported to local hospital and treated for a fractured arm.

Feb. 10, 11 a.m., 24-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries. Rider wore all appropriate PPE.



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

navalsafetycommand.navy.mil

375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399