



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

Rider fatalities this report: **2**
Rider fatalities for FY 25: **15**

Total non-fatal crashes
this report: **37**

Total fatalities this report: **4**

Marine Corps

Rider fatality this report: **2**
Rider fatalities for FY 25: **9**

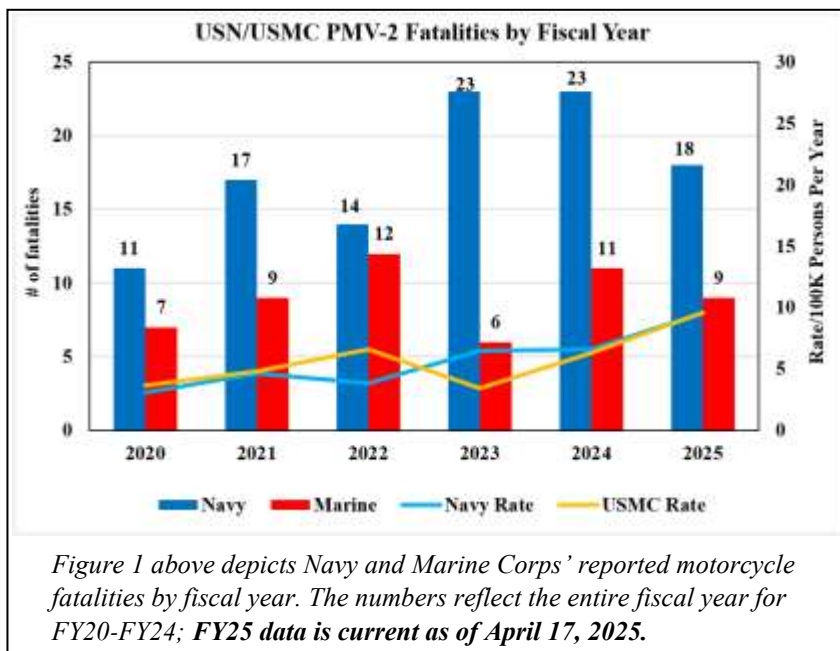
Spring's here: Let the good times roll

By Juan Aguilar

With the onset of spring and favorable riding weather comes an anticipated increase in motorcycle activity. The Navy and Marine Corps remain committed to reducing accidents and ensuring the safety of all riders. Navy and Marine Corps motorcycle safety representatives (MSR) must emphasize heightened awareness and preparation for the upcoming riding season. To ensure rider safety, all personnel must complete or update their Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) mandatory training promptly and wear proper protective gear consistently.

Additional motorcycle training is strongly recommended if you switch motorcycle types, models or brands. Different motorcycles handling characteristics, weight distributions, braking systems and power delivery may vary, affecting rider control and safety. For instance, transitioning from a cruiser to a sportbike, or from a standard bike to a touring model, may require adjusting riding techniques to accommodate differences in ergonomics, throttle response and cornering dynamics. Taking specialized training for a new bike helps familiarize riders with its unique features, improving their response in different riding situations effectively. It also promotes safer riding practices, reducing the risk of crashes due to unfamiliarity with the new motorcycle. Many training programs, such as those offered by the MSF, are designed to address these specific challenges, helping riders gain confidence and competence on their new motorcycle.

Risks associated with improper maneuvers, speeding, distracted driving and training compliance remain significant concerns. Safety



briefings should focus on adapting to changing road conditions and reinforcing defensive riding techniques. Additionally, there should be a renewed effort to educate riders on the importance of bike maintenance and awareness of local hazards, such as construction zones and increased traffic.

In March, the Naval Enterprise recorded 41 motorcycle crashes, four

See Spring, page 2

Spring

(Continued from Page 1)

of which resulted in fatalities. Due to year-round favorable riding conditions, California continues to lead in motorcycle crashes for the 14th month in a row with 12 reportable accidents – and almost a third of the accidents (29%), followed by Florida with seven (17%) and Virginia with the five accidents (12%). The remaining crashes occurred throughout the United States and one in Italy.

Forty-one percent of the reported crashes had minimal or no data regarding the age of the individuals involved. Twenty-four percent of the accidents involved riders aged 22 to 25 years. Seventeen percent of the crashes took place between 8 p.m. and 12 a.m., while 68% occurred between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Additionally, of the crashes reported, 57% occurring on weekdays and 43% on weekends.

It's crucial to pay attention to the factors behind this month's motorcycle crashes and understand detailed and accurate reports help ensure the data collected reflects the actual circumstances of each incident. Comprehensive data allows for identifying patterns and trends, such as common causes, locations or times of day when crashes occur. These distressing statistics emphasize the critical importance of motorcycle safety awareness and proactive measures to prevent future tragedies.

Amidst the critical mission of ensuring operational readiness, the diligent efforts of MSRs, supervisors and collateral duty safety officers persist in keeping personnel current with their training and licensing. The *Rider Down* reports are indispensable tools in our arsenal, integral to safety and training briefs. Their detailed insights and analysis are



A Sailor practices safe stopping procedures during a safety course hosted by the Mid-Atlantic region motorcycle training team and Naval Safety Command, aboard Naval Station Norfolk, July 25. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Amanda S. Kitchner)

By the numbers

15, or 37% of crashes involved collision with a moving vehicle.

11, or 27% of crashes involved a rollover/overturn.

7, or 17% of crashes involved a rider ran off the road.

3, or 7% of crashes involved loss of control.

3, or 7% of crashes involved collision with an animal or object.

1, or 2%, crash involved improper maneuver.

invaluable in understanding the factors contributing to crashes and formulating preventive measures.

To those with Risk Management Information (RMI) access, we've seamlessly integrated the *Rider Down* reports within RMI. Once logged into RMI, click on the left-hand tab under "Pubs and Refs" homepage and proceed to "Motorcycle Rubber Side Down" to subscribe to and view these publications. The site contains the current year motorcycle publications produced by Naval Safety Command (NAVSAFECOM) for Navy and Marine Corps MSRs, riders and safety professionals.

More information, videos and archived newsletters can be found on the NAVSAFECOM website: <https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil/Media/Mags-Pubs/Motorcycle-Rider-Down-Reports-Newsletters/>. Also visit the CAC-enabled site for more tools and resources, <https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/nsc/Pages/PMV-2.aspx>.

In the pursuit of safety, every detail matters. Do not ignore even minor factors as this raises risk and may result in a collision. Factors were provided from the crashes on the following pages based on the information resented in the operations reports and the investigator's reports, most of which are still under investigation. Remove one factor and the crash may not have occurred.

When reviewing the crash narratives on the following pages, consider other factors that may have influenced the mishap. It's a call to action for riders to engage, reflect and ask themselves, "What would I have done differently?"



Motorcycle Crashes

March 2025



Motorcycle Crash Legend

NR represents information **Not Reported**

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific crashes

All times are local

Fatal Crashes

March 14, 1:47 p.m., 23-year-old E-5

Location: Pensacola, Florida

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident and was struck by a vehicle, resulting in significant head trauma. EMS transported Rider to a local hospital, where they later succumbed to injuries. Basic rider course completed in July 2024.

March 19, 7:30 p.m., 19-year-old E-4

Location: Charleston, South Carolina

Remarks: Rider was traveling on a local interstate when they attempted to pass traffic on the right. Unfortunately, the rider hit a curb and was ejected from the bike, sustaining fatal injuries. Despite wearing full PPE, including a helmet, jacket, gloves, boots and eye protection holding a valid motorcycle license/permit with completion of the BRC-1 course in May 2024, the accident resulted in tragic consequences.

March 20, time and age NR, E-9

Location: Escondido, California

Remarks: Rider was traveling on a highway when they collided with a California Transportation vehicle. The crash resulted in fatal injuries with the rider pronounced deceased at the scene. Despite protective gear and a valid motorcycle license, the accident had a devastating ending.

March 31, time and age NR, E-2

Location: Manning, South Carolina

Remarks: Rider's girlfriend messaged the Fire Team Leader on Instagram at 6 a.m., stating the member had been involved in a motorcycle accident. The Fire Team Leader called the member's phone, which was answered by a bystander who confirmed the incident and that the member was being loaded into an ambulance. The rider was transported to a medical facility. The rider was pronounced deceased at 6:43 a.m.

Non-fatal Crashes

March 1, 6 a.m., 38-year-old E-6

Location: Pensacola, Florida

Remarks: Rider was operating the PMV-2 when it was laid down, damaging the vehicle. Fortunately, there were no injuries or loss of work time due to the incident.

March 1, Noon, 23-year-old E-4

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was exiting a local highway on their motorcycle and found themselves behind a box truck. After switching lanes to avoid being directly behind the truck, the box truck began switching multiple

lanes, seemingly attempting to enter an upcoming turning lane. Rider tried to brake but was unable to stop in time, leading to them apply the front wheel brake, causing them to be thrown over the handlebars and strike the back of the box truck. Bystanders called 911 and the rider was transported to a local hospital and received 48 hours SIQ and a week of LLD.

March 1, 6:45 p.m., 26-year-old E-5

Location: Modesto, California

Remarks: Rider was traveling about 50 mph on a local highway in the middle lane. Due to rain, the rider maintained a safe distance from the vehicle ahead. When a car in the right lane signaled and merged into the center lane, the rider slowed down, but the car suddenly braked, causing the rider to lock the front wheel while braking. This led to the rider skidding on the wet road, sliding into the right lane and being ejected from the motorcycle. A motorist called 911, and the rider was released after police arrived and took a report. The motorcycle sustained minor damage, and the rider then rode to a local hospital, where they were examined and later released after a series of tests, including a CT scan and X-rays.

March 1, 7:50 p.m., 36-year-old E-5

Location: Escondido, California

Remarks: Rider was operating their motorcycle in the #1 lane when a vehicle traveling in the #2 lane veered into lane #1, striking the motorcycle. As a result, the rider collided with the vehicle, was ejected and dragged several feet, sustaining injuries to the right side of the body and experiencing neck pain. The rider was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital for medical evaluation.

Acronyms

BRC: Basic Rider Course

EMS: Emergency Medical Services

EMT: Emergency Medical Technician

LLD: light & limited duty

MSF: Motorcycle Safety Foundation

MSR: Motorcycle Safety Representative

NR: Not Reported

PMV-2: private motor vehicle 2 wheels (motorcycle)

POV: private vehicle

PPE: personal protective equipment

RMI: Risk Management Information

SNCO: Senior Non-commissioned Officer

SIQ: sick in quarters

SVM: Service Member

Motorcycle Crashes - March 2025

March 2, 9:30 a.m., 38-year-old E-6
Location: Lakeside, California
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident while attempting to slow down around a curve. No other vehicles were involved in the incident. The rider was transported to a local hospital for evaluation and underwent emergency surgery. The rider was wearing full PPE including a helmet, eye protection, gloves, boots and a jacket, and holds a valid motorcycle license with completion of BRC in August 2021.

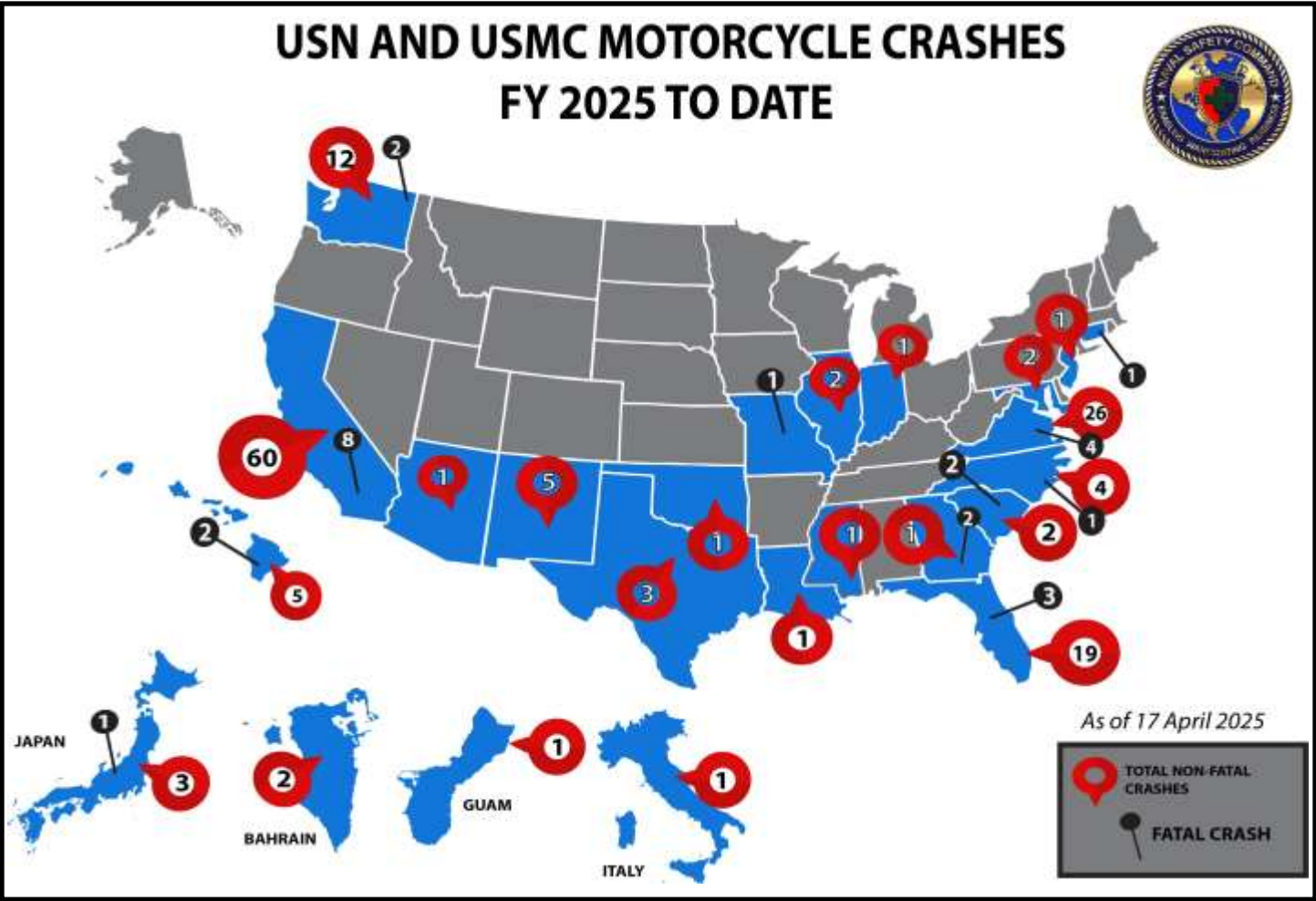
March 2, 2 p.m., 22-year-old E-3
Location: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Remarks: Rider was riding a motorcycle at 15 mph in the barracks parking lot without any PPE. The rider hit a pothole, causing the bike to fall, resulting in a head injury and lost consciousness for about one minute. EMS arrived, stabilized the rider and transported them to a medical center for evaluation and treatment. The rider was discharged with minor injuries and placed on light duty. The rider had no head protection, eye protection, foot protection or any other protective gear and did not have a valid motorcycle license or permit. Additionally, they had not attended any motorcycle safety courses.

March 2, 4:38 p.m., 19-year-old E-3
Location: New Bern, North Carolina
Remarks: The rider, approaching a sharp left turn, was mindful of safety measures and wanted to be the last in the group to make the turn. A truck was coming around the corner in the opposite lane, so the rider stayed as far right in the lane as possible and even moved to

the outside lane to avoid a wide turn. As the rider turned at about 40-45 mph, they noticed gravel and tried to slow down but lost traction, causing the bike to stand up and eject the rider. They hit the ground, moved the bike off the road, and sat down. The truck stopped, and the driver mentioned accidents were common in that area. The rider called for assistance and was later taken to an emergency room, where X-rays showed no broken bones, only trauma to the foot and a bruise. After being treated, the rider was discharged and returned to the barracks.

March 2, 11:30 p.m., 20-year-old E-3
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Remarks: Rider rode with five friends to attend a movie at 9 p.m. and left at 11:30 p.m. While traveling, the SVM accelerated quickly and released the clutch abruptly, causing the motorcycle's front wheel to lift. Both the driver and passenger slid off the bike. The driver declined EMT services, but the passenger accepted, and was accompanied to the hospital by the driver. The rider was cleared after taking a concussion test at the hospital. The passenger was released around 2 a.m. Rider completed BRC in October 2024.

March 4, 10 p.m., 34-year-old E-6
Location: Kingsville, Texas
Remarks: Rider was operating a motorcycle on a paved road when a gust of wind caused the motorcycle and rider to be blown over, resulting in both being thrown onto the road. EMS transported the rider to a local hospital's emergency room for further evaluation and treatment. Injuries include a fractured left clavicle, broken ribs on both sides and a dislocated finger. The rider holds a valid motorcycle license,



Motorcycle Crashes - March 2025

completed BRC training in June 2024 and was wearing all appropriate PPE.

March 5, 6:30 a.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was operating a sport-type motorcycle on a highway interchange traveling at a speed that didn't allow for a quick reaction to sudden traffic changes. The rider followed a larger vehicle and couldn't see around it to assess the traffic ahead. When the larger vehicle changed lanes, the rider failed to notice in time traffic had stopped in their lane. The rider attempted to stop but collided with the rear of a stopped vehicle, being thrown forward onto it. The rider was transported to a local hospital where no significant injuries were found, only minor pain. They were discharged the same day.

March 5, 10 a.m., age NR, E-5

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider laid their motorcycle down while heading home from school. Following the incident, they experienced a headache and were transported to a local hospital for evaluation.

March 5, 5:13 p.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Ormond Beach, Florida

Remarks: Rider had just purchased a motorcycle from a dealership and drove home. When traveling on a local road in the inside lane, they ran off the left side of the roadway, went over a curb and struck a tree in the median. Witnesses reported the rider was traveling at a high rate of speed, weaving in and out of traffic, attempted to turn left but skidded and was thrown off after hitting the tree. The rider was transported to a local hospital with injuries from the crash. Rider was found at fault for the incident but does not remember the events due to a concussion.

March 9, 4 p.m., 20-year-old E-5

Location: Frederick, Maryland

Remarks: Rider was operating the motorcycle at 30 mph when they entered a turn and slipped on gravel. The motorcycle slid, causing the rider to drop his bike, resulting in fairing damage. The rider was checked into the hospital but released the same day.

March 11, 11:20 a.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Wabash, Indiana

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle collision with another moving vehicle, resulting in an acute shoulder injury. The rider sought medical attention, was treated and discharged, returning to full duty.

March 11, 2:40 p.m., age and rank, NR

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident and sustained minor injuries. The individual was transferred to a local hospital for observation and further evaluation.

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

Location: Vista, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, hitting a fence, sustaining multiple injuries and was hospitalized for further observation.

March 12, 7 a.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Chesapeake, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in a collision while riding their motorcycle to work. While merging onto a local highway, a vehicle in front suddenly braked. The rider attempted to avoid the collision, but the vehicle also pulled toward the shoulder, leading to the crash. The rider sustained minor injuries. Motorcycle Operator Cruiser continuation training completed in April 2024.

March 13, 1:30 p.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Everett, Washington

Remarks: Rider was driving home and attempted a right turn when another vehicle struck the rear of their bike, causing them to crash into a light pole. The rider was transported to a regional hospital and discharged approximately four hours later.

March 14, 1:30 p.m., 29-year-old, E-6

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: A distracted driver collided with a motorcycle rider, resulting in body aches and damage to the motorcycle. The rider sustained injuries and was granted 72 hours of SIQ for recovery. This incident highlights the dangers of distracted driving and its impact on the victim and their property.

March 14, 4:45 p.m., age NR, E-3

Location: Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Remarks: Rider was turning onto a road when two vehicles ahead turned left, suddenly causing the vehicle in front to brake. The rider was not paying attention and couldn't brake quickly, resulting in a collision. Police arrived at the scene, and the rider complained of groin pain. They were transported to the hospital, treated and released with no significant injuries.

March 16, 10:15 p.m., age NR, E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident and received treatment at a local hospital for sustained injuries.

March 18, 4:15 p.m., 25-year-old E-4

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident while exiting a local highway when a speeding car pulled into the lane next to them. With insufficient space to lean into the turn, the rider abandoned the motorcycle to avoid hitting the guardrail. The rider was transported to a local hospital by EMS and diagnosed with minor abrasions. The rider wore full PPE, including a helmet, gloves, boots, jacket and eye protection. The rider held a valid motorcycle permit and completed a Basic Rider Course in February 2025.

March 20, 10 a.m., 26-year-old E-4

Location: Kaneohe, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider was traveling from their barracks to a local town to socialize with friends when they exited an interstate at high speed. Realizing they were going too fast to turn safely, they attempted to engine brake but couldn't slow down, hitting a barrier at



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS
375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399
Navalsafetycommand.navy.mil

Motorcycle Crashes - March 2025

approximately 30 mph. The rider called their friend and then emergency services, who transported them to the hospital, where they were diagnosed with a right clavicle fracture. They were placed in a sling, advised light duty and recommended for surgery.

March 20, 4:30 p.m., age NR, E-7

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: A rider was struck by a vehicle, sending them sprawling to the ground. The impact resulted in three broken ribs and the total loss of the motorcycle. Despite the severity of the crash, rider's resilience was tested as they dealt with both the physical injuries and the aftermath of the accident. The motorcycle was totaled.

March 20, 9:10 p.m., age and rate NR

Location: Washington

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle incident where they ran off the road. They went to the hospital for treatment and was diagnosed with a sprained right ankle.

March 21, 6:50 a.m., 22-year-old E-5

Location: Trevola, Italy

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident while merging onto a highway from an on-ramp. The rider was struck by a box truck and thrown from the motorcycle. The box truck did not stop and local emergency services did not respond. The rider remained conscious and chose to be transported to a U.S. military hospital via a POV by an active-duty Navy member who arrived at the scene. The rider is currently in stable condition and underwent surgery for leg injuries sustained during the incident.

March 21, 3 p.m., 20-year-old E-5

Location: Fort Meade, Maryland

Remarks: While leaving the base, the rider exited the gate onto the highway, but didn't turn enough, causing them to panic. They started focusing on the curb instead of the road and the motorcycle veered into the grass. An ambulance transported the rider to a medical center where X-rays were taken and they were released the same day.

March 21, 6:30 p.m., age NR, E-2

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a low-side motorcycle crash, laying the motorcycle down on the highway. The rider sustained minor road rash and returned to work.

March 22, 7:30 p.m., 24-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Remarks: Rider exceeded a safe speed for the road conditions, locked the rear wheel while braking and ran off the road. The rider fell onto the unpaved ground and felt pain around the collarbone. After being transported to a local hospital, X-rays confirmed a broken collarbone and the rider was scheduled for surgery. The rider was placed on light duty (LLD) for 30 days. The rider was wearing PPE, including a helmet, eye protection, gloves, boots and a jacket, holds a valid motorcycle license and has completed all required motorcycle training.

March 24, 1 p.m., age and rate NR

Location: Hanford, California

Remarks: Rider was approaching an intersection when an older model

truck entered the intersection without yielding. The rider sustained injuries after colliding with the truck.

March 25, 11:45 a.m., 20-year-old E-4

Location: Port Townsend, Washington

Remarks: After losing control of the motorcycle and driving off the road, the rider sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was released for follow-up surgery as scheduled. The rider was properly licensed and registered, wearing all required safety gear and operating the motorcycle safely leading up to the accident. Additionally, the rider completed the BRC and certified Level I training in July 2024.

March 26, 9 p.m., age NR, E-5

Location: Everett, Washington

Remarks: SVM was riding a sports bike through an intersection when a vehicle struck them in a hit-and-run accident. The rider sustained injuries and was transported to a hospital, where they were moved to the ICU. The rider was wearing full personal protective equipment, including a helmet, gloves, jacket, boots and eye protection. The rider has a valid motorcycle license and completed a Basic Rider Course.

March 27, 1 p.m., 29-year-old E-5

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was moving behind a vehicle at an intersection when the vehicle abruptly stopped. The rider didn't have enough time to stop and avoid a collision, so they swerved and laid down the motorcycle to prevent the crash.

March 28, 11 p.m., 23-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was riding a motorcycle at high speed when they crashed. The rider sustained an open ankle fracture, leading to significant blood loss and hospitalization, followed by surgery to repair the ankle. They had completed the BRC March 5, 2025.

March 28, 5:30 p.m., 24-year-old E-3

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: The rider collided with a vehicle in front of them while riding their motorcycle, resulting in a fractured kneecap. No other details.

March 29, 2 p.m., 23-year-old E-4

Location: Bremerton, Washington

Remarks: Rider fell off their motorcycle while driving over a speed bump in a parking lot. They were diagnosed with a fractured wrist after receiving X-rays. The rider wore all required PPE, including a helmet, eye protection, foot protection, gloves, boots and a jacket. They hold a valid motorcycle license and completed BRC March 11, 2025.

March 29, 5:30 p.m., 21-year-old E-5

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider and motorcycle slid on the highway after attempting to avoid another vehicle at an interstate intersection. The rider sustained minor injuries and did not require medical attention. The SVM wore full protective gear, including a helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves and a jacket. They hold a valid motorcycle license and completed the BRC March 6, 2024.