



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: 31	Marine Corps
Rider fatalities this report: 4	Total fatalities this report: 4	Rider fatalities this report: 0
Rider fatalities for FY 24: 23		Rider fatalities for FY 24: 11

Stay visible, reduce potential for crashes

Injuries, fatalities rise despite safety initiatives

By Juan Aguilar and Brian Best

Let's recap what we've learned over the 101 Critical Days of Summer. Despite ongoing safety initiatives and awareness campaigns, motorcycle rider-related injuries and fatalities have increased. Four-wheeled vehicle (PMV-4) drivers continue to overlook motorcycles on the road and distracted driving is an escalating contributor to crashes. Motorcycle Safety Representatives (MSRs), it is even more critical to ramp up promoting safe driving practices for the motorcycle community and PMV-4 drivers in the final month leading up to the fiscal year's end. By raising awareness and providing advanced rider training, we can work together to reduce motorcycle crashes and fatalities, ensuring everyone's safety on the road.

In August, there was a noticeable rise in motorcycle crashes caused by collisions with PMV-4s. These crashes pose significant risks to riders, whether due to collisions or speed-related

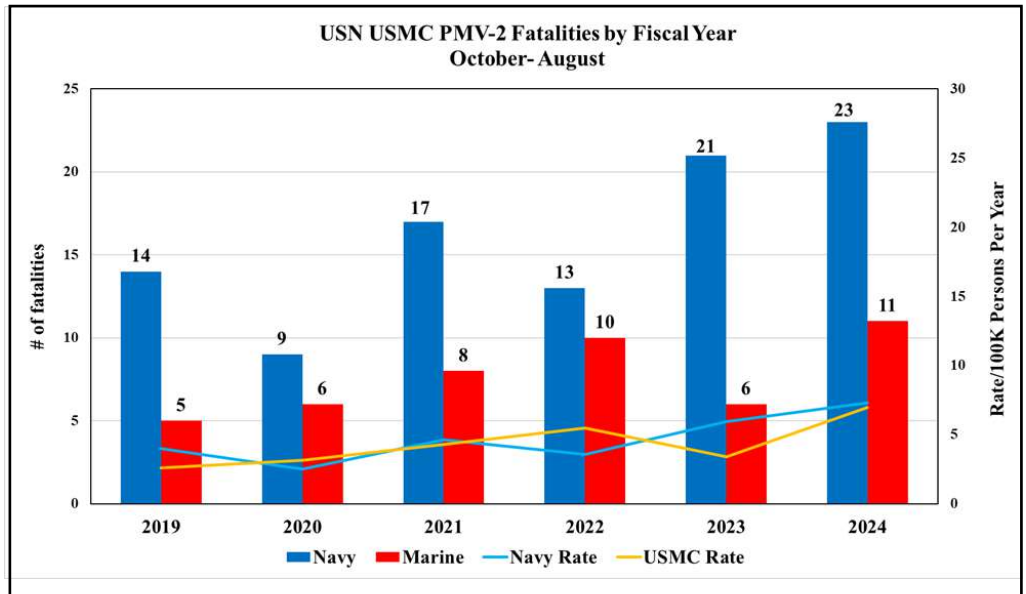


Figure 1 depicts Navy and Marine Corps' reported motorcycle fatalities by fiscal year from 2019 to date.

incidents on bends. However, there are ways to mitigate these dangers. One practical approach is to enhance riding skills through regular practice. It's essential to practice swerving in a controlled environment.

During last year's 101 Critical Days of Summer, the naval enterprise documented 95 reported motorcycle crashes, which

Motorcycle crashes

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led to the loss of 14 riders — 11 Sailors and three Marines, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. During 2024's 101 Critical Days of Summer, the naval enterprise documented 133 reported motorcycle crashes, leading to the loss of 11 riders — nine Sailors and two Marines — between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

This year in August, Naval Safety Command (NAVSAFECOM) recorded 35 motorcycle crashes, with the loss of four riders. For the seventh month in a row, California led in motorcycle crashes with 17 (49%), followed by Virginia with six crashes (17%). The remaining 12 crashes occurred throughout the United States with one in Japan.

Most of the crashes involved 22- to 25-year-old E-4 riders. Forty percent of the crashes occurred between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., with 12 crashes happening between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. Additionally, there were 24 crashes on weekdays and 11 on the weekends. It's crucial to pay attention to the following factors behind this month's motorcycle accidents and recognize the lack of experience and maturity of the riders as contributing elements as well.

- ◆ 12 (34%) crashes involving PMV-4s hitting a rider.
- ◆ 8 (23%) crashes involved loss of control.
- ◆ 7 (20%) crashes had no details reported.
- ◆ 4 (11%) crashes were due to road conditions.
- ◆ 1 (3%) crash involved another motorcycle.
- ◆ 1 (3%) crash involved a rider following too close.
- ◆ 1 (3%) crash involved excessive speed.
- ◆ 1 (3%) crash involved a driver following too close.

These distressing statistics underscore the critical need for continued 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 remain vital to ensure your personnel are current with their training and licensing. The *Rider Down* reports are indispensable tools, integral to safety and training briefs.

For 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. This site contains the NAVSAFECOM'S current year motorcycle publications for Navy and Marine Corps MSRs, riders and safety professionals.

More information, videos and archived newsletters are available 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 the minor factors, as this raises your risk and may result in a collision. Factors are provided from the crash narratives on the following pages based on information presented in the operational reports and investigators' reports, most of which are still under investigation. Remove one factor and the crash may not have occurred. When reviewing the crash narratives, consider other factors that may have influenced the crash.

It's a call to action for riders to engage, reflect and ask themselves, "What would I have done differently?"



Participants mount their bikes during a safety course hosted by the Mid-Atlantic region motorcycle training team aboard Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, July 25, 2024. These courses are required for military personnel who intend on operating a motorcycle on and off base and — while they are not required for civilian riders — attendance is heavily encouraged, as the information and practice received provides a solid foundation of proper operation and healthy caution of the risks inherent to motorcycle operation. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Amanda S. Kitchner)



Motorcycle Crashes

AUGUST 2024



Motorcycle Crash Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific crashes

All times local

Fatal Crashes

Aug. 1, 8:29 a.m., 24-year-old E-5

Location: Imperial Beach, California

Remarks: Rider was traveling to base and was struck by a PMV-4 at an intersection. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene. Rider wore all required PPE and attended the BRC in November 2023.

Aug. 5, 10 a.m., age NR E-4

Location: Ocotillo, California

Remarks: Rider was traveling on a highway and was struck by a vehicle. The service member's spouse notified the rider's division of the accident. The EMT on scene informed the command that the rider had succumbed to injuries at the scene. Rider wore all required PPE and attended the ARC in April 2024.

Aug. 10, 3 a.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Howard County, Maryland

Remarks: Rider struck a commercial PMV-4 that failed to yield from a side road. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene. Rider completed the BRC in March 2024.

Aug. 23, 6:11 a.m., 42-year-old O-5

Location: West Springfield, Massachusetts

Remarks: Rider was killed in a single motorcycle crash. Rider completed the ERC in July 2024.

Nonfatal Crashes

Aug. 1, 1 a.m., 27-year-old E-5

Location: Bremerton, Washington

Remarks: Rider was riding with another member in the command traveling approximately 10 mph above the posted speed limit. While making a left turn, rider encountered a section of unpaved road, lost control of the bike and crashed. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for fractures on right wrist and minor injuries to their hands and legs.

Aug. 1, 7:15 a.m., 24-year-old E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was struck from behind by a PMV-4 on the interstate traveling 15 mph. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to knee. Rider wore all required PPE and attended BRC in May 2024.

Aug. 1, 10 a.m., age NR E-3

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash and was transported to hospital for treatment. Service member was diagnosed with bilateral fractures and was intubated and sedated for pain control.

Aug. 1, 4:02 p.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Richlands, North Carolina

Remarks: The rider, who was heading back to base after picking up their motorcycle from the shop, noticed the oil light was still on, indicating the same issue for which they had taken it to the mechanic in the first place. As they looked up, they heard tires screeching from the PMV-4 in front of them. To avoid a collision, the rider ended up in a single low-sided crash. The PMV-4 then drove off.

Aug. 1, 8:35 p.m., 37-year-old E-6

Location: Jacksonville, Florida

Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash and was transported to hospital and treated for a C-7 fracture. Rider wore all required PPE and attended BRC in March 2024.

Aug. 3, 4:48 p.m., 22-year-old E-4

Location: Yamaguchi, Japan

Remarks: Two riders were on a group ride when one made an unexpected turn into the other, causing them to crash. One rider was thrown from their bike and the other was trapped underneath their bike. Riders were transported to hospital; Rider 1 was treated for injuries to shoulder and back while Rider 2 was treated for injuries to left leg.

Aug. 5, 5:47 p.m., 20-year-old E-4

Location: Oak Harbor, Washington

Remarks: Rider was riding a new street-legal dirt bike on a residential street, going about 25 mph, with a friend in a vehicle trailing behind them. Rider was becoming familiar with the bike

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Acronyms

ARC: advanced rider course

BRC: basic rider course

ERC: experienced rider course

LLD: light & limited duty

MSR: motorcycle safety representative

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

PMV-4: private motor vehicle 4 wheel (automobile)

PPE: personal protective equipment

SIQ: sick in quarters

T-CLOCKS: Tires/wheels, Controls, Lights/electric, Oil/other fluids, Chassis/chain and Stands.

Motorcycle Crashes

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but failed to see a speed bump on the road. Rider hit the speed bump with the bike's front tire and hit the throttle, causing the bike to come up on one wheel, at which time the rider was thrown from the bike. Rider does not remember how they hit the ground but remembered rolling around on ground (asphalt). Rider was transported to hospital and treated for cuts in both knees resulting in stitches, road rash on the right elbow and prescribed pain medication. Rider received four days in quarters and 30 days limited duty. Rider attended BRC December 2023. Rider has not taken a Level II course.

Aug. 6, 7:45 a.m., 20-year-old E-4

Location: National City, California

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 that failed to stop at a four-way intersection. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor cuts, bruises and prescribed pain medication. Rider wore all required PPE.

Aug. 8, 7:10 a.m., 31-year-old E-5

Location: Ridgecrest, California

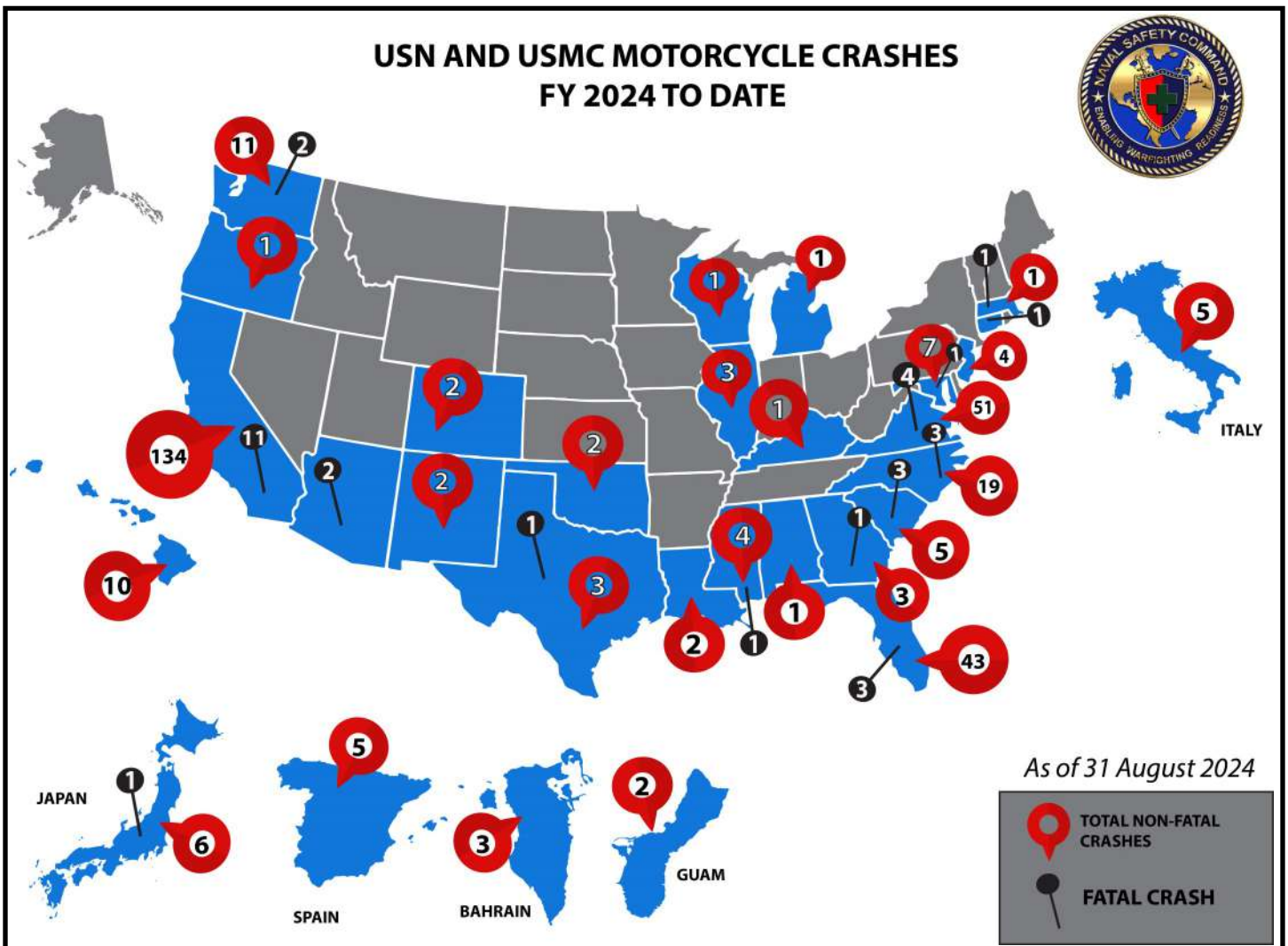
Remarks: Rider was traveling to work and made a right-hand turn going 30-40 mph when a PMV-4 made a left-hand turn. Rider crashed into the rear of the PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured wrist. Rider received one day SIQ.

Aug. 8, 7:15 a.m., 33-year-old E-5

Location: Chula Vista, California

Remarks: Rider laid down motorcycle to avoid crash with a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained. Rider hospitalized one day and incurred three days SIQ. *The BRC teaches riders to brake or swerve, never to intentionally lay their bikes down. You must be able to control the motorcycle well enough to put it where you want in every situation. This means stopping, turning, swerving and accelerating with precision. For example, you must fit the motorcycle well to be able to control its size, weight and power. Ride within your skill limits by keeping in mind what you can and cannot do with the motorcycle.*

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Motorcycle Crashes

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Aug. 8, 7:15 a.m., 33-year-old E-4

Location: Chula Vista, California

Remarks: Rider was forced to lay their motorcycle down to avoid a collision with the vehicle ahead of them.

Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained. *Luckily, all PPE was worn and required training was previously completed. The question to ask should be “was the rider following too close to brake safely?” or “did the driver inadvertently swerve into the rider’s lane?”*

Aug. 9, 2:44 a.m., 26-year-old E-6

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was headed home from work on a dark street driving recklessly and struck a stop sign. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for multiple injuries. Rider was hospitalized 13 days. Rider wore a helmet but had not attended a motorcycle safety course. *Remember, just because you bought the motorcycle before attending courses, you are not legally allowed to ride at your own risk.*

Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m., age NR E-4

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash. Rider was transported to hospital for treatment. Service member’s injuries are unknown and remains in critical condition.

Aug. 10, 1 a.m., age NR E-4

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash with a PMV-4 on an interstate while traveling home. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained. Rider stayed three days in the hospital with 30 days LLD. Rider wore a helmet.

Aug. 11, 4 a.m., age NR E-3

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider lost control while riding over sand, crashed and lost consciousness. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Aug. 11, 5:30 p.m. 22-year-old E-4

Location: Chula Vista, California

Remarks: The rider was driving motorcycle in the middle lane of a parkway when a PMV-4 in front suddenly slammed on their brakes. The rider swerved to the right to avoid hitting the PMV-4. However, loose gravel on the shoulder caused the motorcycle to lose traction. As a result, the rider hit a curb and the bike swung around, facing oncoming traffic; the rider fell to the left side, sliding slightly. The rider was wearing all required PPE, but the glove on their left hand ripped over the middle joint on their ring finger. The rider required five stitches on the finger.

Aug. 11, 6:15 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: Waukegan, Illinois

Remarks: Rider swerved due to a PMV-4 pulling out in front of them and lost control, which resulted in a single crash. The PMV-4 drove away. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for sprains and strains to their right ankle.

Aug. 13, 5:40 a.m., 22-year-old E-2

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle crash on an interstate. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured clavicle and a bruised arm. Rider wore all required PPE and attended BRC in May 2024.

Aug. 13, 7:30 a.m., 23-year-old E-4

Location: Carlsbad, California

Remarks: Rider was driving to work in the HOV lane when traffic began slowing down. Rider attempted to swerve but was unsuccessful and struck the rear of the PMV-4 when the PMV-4 merged into their lane without signaling. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their leg.

Aug. 13, 7:55 a.m., 21-year-old E-3

Location: NR

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 while turning left. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash and bruising. Rider received three days SIQ.

Aug. 13, time NR, 28-year-old E-6

Location: Dahlgren, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control and crashed at a stoplight. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured arm. Rider incurred one day SIQ.

Aug. 14, 5 p.m., age NR E-3

Location: Los Angeles, California

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 turning left from oncoming traffic. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured pelvis, three fractured ribs, a ruptured testicle and abrasions on their body. Rider was hospitalized with a possible extension on active service for medical hold and then transfer to a military hospital for long-term care.

Aug. 15, 6:30 a.m., age NR E-5

Location: Port Hueneme, California

Remarks: The rider was leaving for work and had only driven about 6 inches when their anti-theft device, which locks the rotor, activated due to their oversight of not removing it. As a result, their bike fell over, causing the rider’s head to collide with a parked PMV-4. The rider was taken to hospital and treated for a neck sprain. Rider has 15 years of experience and understands the importance of performing T-CLOCS, but they forgot to conduct the pre-checks on the day of the incident. Rider wore a helmet.

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(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matt Hall)

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Aug. 15, 7:20 a.m., age NR E-5

Location: Oxnard, California

Remarks: Rider was transiting to work and, while making a right-hand turn, hit a dirt patch in the road, causing the motorcycle to lose traction on the low side. The motorcycle slid across the road roughly 20 feet and the rider rolled about 10 feet. There was minor damage and injuries to the motorcycle and rider. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash on right knee and slight road rash on the knuckles where the gloves tore. The service member was wearing all required PPE.

Aug. 15, 4:30 p.m., 21-year-old E-4

Location: Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control on base and crashed into a building. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries. Rider wore all required PPE except for foot protection. Rider did not have a motorcycle endorsement and was not licensed to ride a motorcycle.

Aug. 16, 7:20 a.m., 20-year-old E-4

Location: Aberdeen, Maryland

Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash and was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained. Rider received one day SIQ.

Aug. 17, 1 a.m., 19-year-old E-2

Location: Hermiston, Oregon

Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash while executing PCS orders. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for severe injuries.

Aug. 20, 9:30 p.m., 19-year-old E-2

Location: Chesapeake, Virginia

Remarks: Rider lost control and crashed. Rider did not suffer any injuries.

Aug. 21, 6:45 a.m., age and rank NR

Location: Township, New Jersey

Remarks: Rider lost control riding through a pothole. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash and aches and pains.

Aug. 22, 4:15 p.m., 21-year-old E-5

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 merging from an on-ramp, resulting in the rider crashing into a cement barricade. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured arm.

Aug. 23, 12:33 a.m., age NR E-3

Location: Oceanside, California

Remarks: Rider was involved in a crash and was transported to hospital and treated for multiple fractured bones and a potential neck injury.

**Even though the following incident is not reportable, it is worth referencing for training purposes.*

Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m., 19-year-old E-3

Location: Orange Beach, Alabama

Remarks: Rider was traveling 60-75 mph in a 25 mph zone. Police attempted to pull rider over and the rider attempted to evade police. Rider then crashed their motorcycle in a sandy area and was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured ankle and injuries to their back. Rider was hospitalized five days and SIQ 42 days. Rider wore all required PPE and had previously completed the motorcycle safety course.



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

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