



# NAVAL SAFETY COMMAND SAFETY AWARENESS DISPATCH SA 26-10



## E-Scooter Mishaps

### Episode VIII - "The Last E-Scooter" (we can hope anyway)

"Researchers find that E-Scooters are a fun, easy way to go to the ER" – Mother Jones

Across the country, e-scooter ER visits went up again last year, A LOT, just as they have every year since 2020.<sup>1</sup> But the good news is Navy and Marine Corps e-scooter injuries didn't. By our unofficial Safety Awareness research team count, there were 16 reported mishaps in FY 2025 and 13 in 2024, both of which are down from 24 in 2023. Perhaps seven years of dispatches are getting the message across. We do know that some commands and bases have taken the (wise) step of restricting or prohibiting e-scooter use.

Help us, help you to keep the trend going down. We don't want you to get hurt, and you don't want to either. With that in mind, read on.

### It's Better to Read and Learn Than to Bleed and Learn

On a nice early afternoon, a Sailor was riding an electric scooter. He attempted to "avoid a parked car" (*those parked cars move pretty fast ...*) and struck the curb, ejecting himself from the scooter and landing on both arms, breaking his wrist. His prizes: a trip to the emergency room, a cast, and 14 days light duty. – *There isn't much else he could've done, except wear PPE or don't ride e-scooters. The command did the right thing to prevent future events. They shared this Sailor's lesson with their entire command and gave them an earlier Safety Awareness Dispatch on the topic. We hope someone else in the command learned from his first-hand lesson. It's better to "read and learn" than to "bleed and learn."*

### Riding the Rails

On a fine Navy Day (*it was raining*) a Sailor was transiting to his ship using an e-scooter. While cruising down the bike lane in front of the piers, he attempted to avoid a forklift that was moving supplies. As he deftly maneuvered, the scooter wheel stuck in the train tracks that cross the road, taking the scooter one way and him another. The result was a leg injury of undefined nature. – *The wipeout was probably painful, but we bet the Sailors guarding the pier gate thought it was hilarious! (what're friends for?). The little scooter wheels are part of what makes them a deathtrap. A pebble, pavement crack, or train track can wipe you out. Please be wary.*

### What Does This Button Do?

A Chief was transiting to work on-base via e-scooter. As he tried to turn off the lights on the scooter, he accidentally secured power to the entire device while driving. When he killed the power, it nearly killed him too. The e-scooter suddenly stopped, throwing him to the ground and breaking a bone in his right foot. He went to the hospital (*probably not via e-scooter*) where the staff diagnosed the break and eventually operated on him to repair the damage. Three days in the hospital, 11 days sick in quarters, and four weeks on light duty. – *If you're going to ride, make sure you know what button does what. Even better, don't ride.*



File photo, not associated with a mishap

<sup>1</sup> E-scooter rider ER visits for injuries in the U.S. rose 80% from 2023 to 2024 and nearly 300% from 2020 to 2024 according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and ERideHero, a company that tests e-scooters and related products.

## Not an Off-Road Vehicle

A Marine Officer rented an e-scooter. While we question that decision, we applaud him for wearing a helmet (*Well done, sir!*). While driving the scooter on a “rough secondary road,” he lost control of the scooter at around 5-7 MPH. It slid sideways and he flew off, hitting the ground hard. He was taken to the local hospital, where he was diagnosed with three broken ribs and a pneumothorax (*a collapsed lung*). He had surgery the next day, followed by five days SIQ and 30 days of light duty to heal. – *Scooter wheels aren’t designed for off-roading; they’re barely good at on-roading. We think this officer will tell you that he’s glad he wore the helmet. The reports says it well, particularly for rough roads: “Slow down and if necessary, walk.” It’s better to walk from the beginning and skip the scooter completely.*

## Amnesia

On a lovely summer evening, a Sailor was riding an electric scooter off base. She fell off and broke her collar bone. We don’t know how it happened, because she also struck her head during the fall and doesn’t remember what caused it (*if only something existed that would have protected her head ... oh wait!*). After the wreck (*probably in a dazed state from the head impact*), she went home that night. The next morning, she went to medical with “notable pain,” and they discovered her broken clavicle and a concussion. This mishap resulted in 30 days of light duty. – *You will wreck on an e-scooter. It’s just a matter of time. We can’t say it enough—WEAR A HELMET! (yes, we are yelling in all caps).*

## How to Become a Briefer at the Next Safety Standdown

While on liberty overseas, a Sailor was “operating a scooter at around 3 a.m.” (*hmm, why was he on an e-scooter at 3 a.m.?*). He rode off a curb (*on purpose?*), landed awkwardly, and fell off the scooter onto his leg. While on the ground, his right leg was “snapped to the side.” Witnesses called an ambulance and the ER confirmed that he’d fractured his fibula (*pretty spectacularly*). The report later tells us that the rider/victim was thoroughly drunk at the time, contributing to his bad decision making and worse scooter driving. – *OBTW, the Sailor’s command has a local instruction that prohibits e-scooter use. He accidentally made himself the example of why the CO’s policy was right. After his surgery and physical therapy are done, we bet he’s going to be a briefer at the next Safety Standdown.*

### Key Takeaways

After reading the painful, real-life lessons, we’ll let you answer these familiar questions to make your own Key Takeaways to remember. If you’ve read a previous episode, they’ll sound familiar, except for the new #5.

**1. Is the scooter really going to be the fastest way to get me where I’m going?**

- Don’t forget to factor in the waiting time in the emergency room and on limited duty to heal.

**2. Should I drink and scooter?**

- If the answer isn’t clear, call us because we need to talk.

**3. Hmm. It’s midnight and really dark out. Shall I ride-share, walk, or scooter home?**

- We’re figuring you know the correct answer. The question is, will you make the right choice in the moment? We really hope you will.

**4. Am I going to wear a helmet? Or am I NOT going to scooter?**

- Choose wisely, young Padawan.

**5. If I’m a supervisor – or even the CO – what am I going to tell my people about riding e-scooters?**

- You’re the one in charge, so we won’t tell you what to do. We’re pretty sure the Jedi Council would make ‘em off limits. Limiting use and mentoring our folks seems to be reducing our injuries even as the national stats get worse.

*And remember, “Let’s be careful out there”*