



Rider Down is a monthly update of motorcycle mishaps 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 mishap data from Naval Safety Command

Navy		Marine Corps	
Rider fatalities this report: 4	Total non-fatal mishaps this report: 28	Rider fatalities this report: 0	
Rider fatalities for FY 23: 21	Total fatalities this report: 4	Rider fatalities for FY 23: 6	

Summer season wraps up; stay vigilant

By Brian Best, Naval Safety Command

It is hard to believe that summer weather is winding down and the school year is upon us. We are seeing more school buses on the roads and children walking on the side of roads during morning and afternoon commutes. With the increase of foot traffic and vehicles on the roads, it is essential to be aware of your surroundings and drive carefully, especially during this time of year.

With the Labor Day holiday in the rear view mirror, the 101 Critical Days of Summer, an annual campaign highlighting the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day has concluded. It has been a challenging year for PMV-2 mishaps as the Naval Enterprise lost 14 service members to PMV-2 accidents: 11 Sailors and three Marines. Fifty percent of the mishaps involved a PMV-2 interaction with a PMV-4 and over 33 percent cited speed as a factor of the casualty. That's a sobering reminder that we all need to do our part to prevent accidents on the road.

As we head into a new fiscal year, let's commit to being responsible riders and drivers. When you ride, be a competent rider and know your limitations. If you need motorcycle training or do not have your license endorsement, do not ride! If it has been over five years since your last rider course, complete your required refresher training. When you ride, leave plenty of room between your bike and other vehicles; do not tailgate. Keep your head on a swivel, looking out for other motor vehicles. California is the only state that allows lane splitting. Splitting lanes is hazardous and illegal in most states.

Although your bike may be capable of going fast, it's never

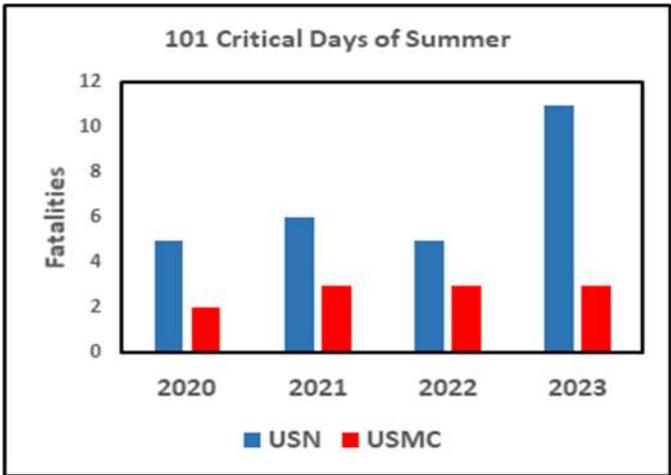


Figure 1. The above graph depicts the Navy and Marine Corps' reported motorcycle fatalities during the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

worth risking your safety or the safety of others by speeding. Save the energy for evasive maneuvers and risk mitigation. Speeding has been the second leading cause of motorcycle fatalities since 2013, whereas no improper operation comes in No. 1. No improper operation means it was due to the other driver not doing what they should be doing, such as not using turn signals, unexpected lane changes, failure to yield, etc.

We all need to strive for improvement; make a pact not to speed in fiscal year 2024.



Motorcycle Mishaps

August 2023



Motorcycle Mishap Legend

NR represents information not reported

Red entries represent Marine Corps-specific mishaps

Fatal Mishaps (Times local)

Aug. 1, 1:50 p.m., 29-year-old E-5
Location: Orange Park, Florida.
Remarks: Rider collided with a civilian PMV-4 that failed to yield. Rider was taken to a local hospital and treated for injuries sustained. Rider was wearing all required PPE. Rider succumbed to injuries on Aug. 8.

Aug. 4, time, age NR, E-3
Location: Salem, Oregon
Remarks: Rider lost control and collided with a PMV-4. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

Aug. 23, time, age NR, E-5
Location: Yokosuka, Japan
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

Aug. 26, 1 p.m., 22-year-old E-4
Location: Shenandoah Valley, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was struck by an oncoming PMV-4. Rider succumbed to injuries at the scene.

Nonfatal Mishaps (Times local)

Aug. 3, 5 p.m., 22-year-old, E-4
Location: Bangor, Washington
Remarks: Rider rear-ended a vehicle that had slowed down. Rider was taken to hospital and treated for a fractured leg. Rider was wearing all required PPE and had completed the basic rider course in May 2023.

Aug. 3, 9:30 a.m., 22-year-old, E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider lost control while riding over loose gravel in a construction zone. Rider slid across the pavement resulting in abrasions to their right forearm and right leg. Rider was wearing all required PPE and had completed basic rider course in March 2023.

Aug. 3, 7:30 a.m., 27-year-old E-6
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was sideswiped by a passing motor vehicle. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for a fractured leg. Rider was wearing all required PPE.

Aug. 3, 5:15 p.m., 26-year-old, E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was stopped at a traffic light when a PMV-4 ran a red light, struck another PMV-4 and the forward momentum struck the Rider. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Aug. 4, 9 p.m., 32-year-old E-6
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured hands, fractured C1 vertebrae and road rash on their right knee and shin. Rider was wearing all required PPE and had completed all required motorcycle safety courses.

Aug. 5, 12:10 p.m., 27-year-old E-5
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 that failed to stop at a stop sign. Rider was transported to a local hospital and was treated for injuries sustained.

Aug. 5, 1:30 p.m., age NR, E-8
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident when the vehicle in front of them braked suddenly. Rider swerved to avoid hitting the vehicle and had to lay the bike down. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured collarbone and ribs.

Aug. 5, 4 p.m., age NR, E-5
Location: Westmorland, California
Remarks: Rider was distracted and lost control. Rider slid on gravel as they were approaching a curb. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Aug. 5, 4 p.m., age NR, E-2
Location: Twenty-nine Palms, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by an oncoming PMV-4 that crossed over the center line. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured hand.

Aug. 6, 5:30 p.m., 37-year-old E-7
Location: Richmond, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident, was transported to hospital and treated for injuries. Rider was wearing all required PPE and had completed all required motorcycle safety courses.

Aug. 9, 8 p.m., 22-year-old E-3
Location: California
Remarks: Rider took an exit too fast and lost control of their bike. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Aug. 10, 2:30 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: Marrero, Louisiana
Remarks: Rider collided with a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash.

Aug. 11, 6:30 a.m., 29-year-old E-5
Location: Escondido, California
Remarks: Rider was involved in a motorcycle accident and was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured arm and collarbone.

Motorcycle Mishaps

August 2023

(Continued from Page 2)

Aug. 11, 12:15 a.m., age NR, E-7

Location: North Carolina

Remarks: Rider was rear-ended by a drunk driver. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for severe injuries.

Aug. 11, 11:05 p.m., 21-year-old E-5

Location: Suffolk, Virginia

Remarks: Rider struck a piece of wood in the road and lost control. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a dislocated shoulder.

Aug. 14, 8 a.m., 30-year-old O-3

Location: Milton, Florida

Remarks: Rider was involved in an accident. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for very severe injuries.

Aug. 14, 8 a.m., 30-year-old E-8

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider lost control and hit a guardrail due to being struck by a PMV-4, which fled the scene. Rider was transported to a local hospital and treated for back and foot injuries.

Aug. 14, time, age and rank NR

Location: Camp Pendleton, California

Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured left patella (kneecap) and left ankle.

Aug. 15, 8 a.m., 25-year-old E-5

Location: Jacksonville, North Carolina

Remarks: Rider's rear tire slipped out due to road conditions. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for lacerations to their arms and legs.

Aug. 15, 3:30 p.m., 19-year-old, rank NR

Location: San Diego, California

Remarks: Rider struck a PMV-4 that merged directly in front of them. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries to their right foot.

Aug. 16, 7:35 a.m., 24-year-old, E-6

Location: Kapolei, Hawaii

Remarks: Rider was forced over by a merging PMV-4 on an on-ramp and lost control from wet road conditions. Rider was transported hospital and treated for a fractured ankle.

Aug. 17, 3:45 p.m., age and rank NR

Location: San Diego, California

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

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REQUIRED MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
REFERENCE: OPNAVINST 5100.23H



LEVEL 3 - REFRESHER COURSE
Must Be Completed Every 5 Years

LEVEL 2 - ADVANCED RIDER COURSE
Within 60 Days or Up to 1 Year from Completion of BRC

LEVEL 1 - BASIC RIDER COURSE
Before You Ride

**ONLY 4 DAYS OF TRAINING
CAN SAVE LIVES**

Motorcycle Mishaps

August 2023

(Continued from Page 3)

Aug. 18, 4 p.m., age and rank NR
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider made an improper turn, lost control and went off the road. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for road rash.

Aug. 18, 07:02 p.m., 32-year-old, rank NR
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Remarks: Rider (passenger) was involved in a motorcycle accident. Rider (passenger) was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Aug. 18, 6 a.m., 43-year-old, E-6
Location: Chula Vista, California
Remarks: Rider lost control when a PMV-4 unexpectedly cut in front of them from the far-left lane. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for injuries sustained.

Aug. 21, 6:45 a.m., 20-year-old, E-5
Location: Bonsall, California
Remarks: Rider was splitting lanes and collided with a PMV-4 that changed lanes unexpectedly. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured left clavicle.

Aug. 22, 6:35 a.m., 20-year-old E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider was struck by a PMV-4 switching lanes. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured clavicle.

Aug. 23, 6:50 p.m., age NR, E-5
Location: San Diego, California
Remarks: Rider attempted to pass two PMV-4s and was struck by an oncoming PMV-4. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for head trauma, internal bleeding and multiple fractures.

Aug. 24, 8:30 a.m., 26-year-old E-5
Location: Silverdale, Washington
Remarks: Rider collided with serpentine barrier when entering the base. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured tibia and fibula. Rider had not attended any motorcycle courses.

Aug. 27, 12:30 p.m., 23-year-old E-2
Location: Portsmouth, Virginia
Remarks: Rider was struck by an oncoming PMV-4 while turning left. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a dislocated hip, fractured wrist and road rash.



Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Jeffery Schank, assigned to USS Tripoli (LHA 7), prepares to ride his motorcycle during a command motorcycle ride April 28, 2023. Tripoli is an America-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austyn Riley)

Aug. 28, 5:30 a.m., 22-year-old, E-5
Location: National City, California
Remarks: Rider lost control when a PMV-4 pulled out in front of them from a side street. Rider was transported to hospital and treated for a fractured right hand, and right leg.



ENABLING WARFIGHTING READINESS

375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

navalsafetycommand.navy.mil