



SAFETY TIPS

2024 Motorcycle Riding Season

Motorcycle riding can be extremely fun but is also inherently dangerous due to no roll cage or air bags, and a smaller profile makes them difficult to see and determine their speed. As the motorcycle riding season quickly approaches, riders must refocus attention to ensure their motorcycle is in optimum condition, training is up-to-date, and they're mentally prepared. The following tips are offered to help prepare and execute a safe motorcycle riding season:

RISK MANAGEMENT: Many motorcycle mishaps occur because automobile operators don't see - and impact the riders. Automobile operators must look twice for motorcycles when pulling out into traffic. If you look for them, you will see them. Riders must adhere to the principles of risk management: Identify and assess the risks, make risk decisions, and implement controls.

RIDER RESPONSIBILITIES: All operators of street-legal motorcycles, three-wheeled motorcycles, and auto-cycles, must comply with state licensing, registration, insurance, and training requirements. The rider must report immediate changes in their riding status to command leadership and MMP President. Riders must provide their command's training department with course completion documentation to log the training in MCTFS / MCTIMS.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS: The governing MCO for motorcycle training is the 5100.29C (Vol. 3). It identifies the training levels (Level 1 – Initial/Basic; Level 2 – Intermediate; Level 3 – Advanced).

- Level 1: All military personnel who plan to purchase or operate a motorcycle, regardless of intent to ride on a DoD installation, are required to successfully complete an initial motorcycle safety course. Riders are not required to attend Level 1 if they possess a valid state or host nation motorcycle endorsement. On-base training is at no cost to riders for all Level training.
- Level 2: All military riders will complete Level 2 training within 180 days of completing Level 1 or being identified as a licensed rider.
- Level 3: Provides skills practice at realistic speeds with street cornering scenarios in a controlled environment. This training is highly recommended for all military motorcycle riders who have completed Level 2.
- Refresher Training - All military riders will take refresher training every five years from their last date of Level 2/3 training. Refresher training can be any Level 2/3 training that includes classroom and on-motorcycle skills-based instruction.
- **Notes**: Online training does not meet this requirement. Motorcycle training records are reviewed during command inspections!



RIDING TIPS: Be mentally prepared, wear all required PPE, and stay alert; Riders are urged to maintain proper following distances to avoid collisions during abrupt stops. Avoid riding in vehicle blind spots. When riding, know the route, study the curves, and scan for traffic at intersections. Don't exceed your experience levels. Signal well in advance of turning or changing lanes. Stay aware of your surroundings and use scanning patterns to keep eyes moving. Anticipate the actions of others.

Get a copy



Save a copy



MOTORCYCLE MISHAPS: Per vehicle miles driven, motorcyclist are 24 times more likely than passenger vehicle occupants to die in motor vehicle crashes, and 4 times more likely to be injured. According to NHTSA in 2021, 5,932 motorcyclists died in the U.S.; the **most** in any year since 1975. To date in FY24, MFC units have suffered three fatal motorcycle crashes; this matches our total for FY23. The below mishaps occurred within the MFC enterprise within the last few years.

- SSGT, riding motorcycle, **lost control**, impacted the rear of an SUV, and died from injuries.
- Cpl, riding with two other Marines, crashed. Cpl wore a half-shell helmet, had a 0.16 BAC. Marine was removed from life support after two weeks in a coma, pronounced deceased.
- LCpl, riding sport bike, **lost control**, crashed and was ejected from motorcycle. Sustained severe road rash. LCpl was licensed but **did not have Level I or Level II training**.
- GySgt, riding while on terminal leave, slowed down to make a turn and was struck from behind by vehicle; suffered Permanent Total Disability (brain injury).

MOTORCYCLE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (MMP): All battalion, squadron, and higher commands will establish an MMP, identify all active and inactive riders, and hold monthly meetings. Membership in the command's MMP is mandatory, as operational duties permit. Meeting attendance rosters and minutes will be forwarded to the unit XO and Safety Officer for inspection records.

SCHEDULING TRAINING: Motorcycle training can be obtained by logging into the following site: www.navymotorcyclerider.com then select the Global Training Registration link. Training views can be tailored to type of training, region, site location, and training dates.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE): The following minimum PPE is mandatory for all operators and passengers riding a motorcycle (per MCO 5100.29C Vol 3, Chap 3):

- **Helmet:** DOT approved helmet shall be worn, and fastened under the chin;
- **Eye Protection:** Goggles, glasses, or a full-face shield will be properly worn;
- **Foot Protection:** Sturdy, above the ankle shoes or boots that provide support and traction when stopping or starting. Footwear should protect the rider in the event of a crash;
- **Protective Clothing:** A garment or jacket that fully covers the arms, long trousers, and full-fingered or fingerless gloves; wearing a motorcycle jacket and pants containing impact absorbing padding is strongly encouraged, and PPE that incorporates fluorescent colors and reflective material. Proper PPE also reduces dehydration. All the Gear – All the Time!

ARE YOU NEXT? Based on trends and predictive analysis, a profile of our next motorcycle mishap victim is as follows: Male, Marine, E3/4, in North Carolina. The crash will occur on a weekend, involve high-speeds, and the rider may not have completed Level 2 training.

RESOURCES: [Safety Division \(marines.mil\)](http://marines.mil); <https://www.safety.marines.mil/>
[Pre-ride Inspection Check \(T-CLOCS\)](#); [American Motorcyclist Association](#);
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/motorcycles>

Manage the Risk



Protect the Force