

DID YOU KNOW?

USMC SAFETY & FORCE PRESERVATION



FEBRUARY 2011

INJURIES OUTSIDE THE "NORM"

As the Marine Corps continues to focus on 4-wheel PMV and motorcycle initiatives to keep our Marines and Sailors alive on the streets, there has been a noticeable trend in other, sometimes strange, on and off-duty injuries and fatalities. Preventable accidents of all kinds are a significant detriment to readiness across the Marine Corps and the underlying causal factors in many of these mishaps are usually avoidable when coupled with risk management and a bit of common sense.

Below are a small handful of the sometimes strange and mostly avoidable mishaps in the Marine Corps. Perhaps some of these wouldn't even have happened if a little prior thought and risk management strategy had been used.

Use your head and plan ahead, utilize the proper gear, training, and PPE and don't end up like these Marines.



THAT DAMNED OL' RODEO

RECENT USMC INJURIES

- Dec 2010: A Marine broke his C12 vertebrae when he fell and hit his tailbone while snowboarding.
- Nov 2010: A Marine sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns to his right leg when he lit Bacardi 151 on fire in a glass and then spilled it on his leg.
- Nov 2010: Three Marines were injured when a retaining wall collapsed on top of them in Afghanistan.
- Nov 2010: A Marine attempted to start his vehicle by priming the carburetor with gasoline while his brother cranked the engine. The gas ignited and the Marine sustained 3rd degree burns to his hands as well as 2nd degree burns to his face.
- Nov 2010: A Marine lost his balance while installing decorations at the chow hall and fell face first into a helium canister's push valve, injuring his right eye.
- Oct 2010: A Marine was participating in a rodeo and was injured when he was bucked off the rear of a bull and hit the ground, then was struck on his left cheek by the rear hoof by the bull causing a large laceration on his left cheek. This is only one of several rodeo injuries that have occurred in the past few years.
- Oct 2010: A Marine was on the side off road working on his motorcycle that was experiencing operating problems when his thumb became caught in the chain partially amputating it.
- Sep 2010: A Marine was walking on a porch and tripped over another person causing him to strike his face on the pavement, resulting in multiple lacerations to left cheek, a broken nose and a concussion.
- May 2009: A Marine sustained injuries from a fall while participating in an off-duty event on a rock climbing wall.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Prior to removing anything from a wall or building, ensure it's not part of the supporting structure. If unsure, ask someone before acting.
- When working in elevated areas - scan your surroundings and remove items that could potentially cause harm if you fell on them.
- Pay attention and be aware of your surroundings.
- Use risk management techniques in everyday situations, not just on the job.

