



# VETERANS DAY SAFETY TIPS



Veterans Day, formerly 'Armistice Day' was first celebrated on 11 November, 1919, to mark the one year anniversary of the end of WWI. Armistice Day became a federal holiday on 13 May, 1938, when President Woodrow Wilson enacted the law and dedicated it to all American veterans. On 1 June, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower renamed the holiday as Veterans Day to honor all veterans for their patriotism, sacrifice and service. Veterans Day is widely-viewed as the beginning of the winter safety campaign. The following Safety Tips are offered to prepare a seasonal mindset change and to ensure a safe Veterans Day:

## VETERANS DAY SAFETY TIPS:

1. Travel Tips: The potential for wintery road conditions increases around Veteran's Day. This demands that operators be more aware of surroundings, drive defensively, and execute extreme caution - especially during night driving. Always wear seatbelts and avoid speeding. Extend vehicle following distances for each additional risk encountered (i.e. Poor weather, visibility, or road conditions, heavy traffic, construction zones, or unfamiliar roads). Consider the safety of other motorists - eliminate distractions while driving. Place your cell phone out of reach, or turn it off until safely parked. Avoid heavy meals if driving long distances. Don't rely on caffeine drinks to beat fatigue – instead pull over and rest when feeling tired. Be courteous. Avoid actions and situations which could escalate into road rage.
2. Weather Changes: Be aware of the seasonal changes and weather outlook for your area. Plan appropriately to alleviate driving in poor weather conditions. Prior to long-distance travel, especially in northern states, ensure your vehicle is equipped with an emergency kit consisting of water, non-perishable food, flashlight, shovel, sand/kitty litter (for traction), warm clothes and blankets. Keep wiper blades in optimum condition, and windshield washer reservoir full.
3. Alcohol Concerns: If you drink, do so responsibly. Display behaviors consistent with Corps values. Never operate a motor vehicle if consuming alcohol. Have a plan that prevents getting behind the wheel if drinking, and execute the plan. Ensure fellow Marines are monitored closely, and intervene immediately when a situations does not look or feel right. Excessive alcohol consumption is proven to impair judgment and decision making, thus jeopardizing our safety and success. Make smart decisions and "Protect What You've Earned".
4. Risk Management (RM): Program designed to reduce or offset risk; a closed loop process for identifying and controlling hazards. Integrate into every evolution the five steps of RM: 1- Identify hazards; 2-Assess hazards; 3-Make risk decisions; 4-Implement controls; 5-Supervise.

**Manage the Risk...Protect the Force!**