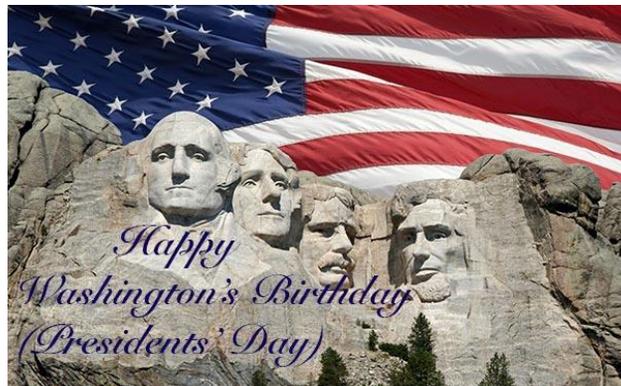




Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) Weekend Safety Tips



Since 1971, Washington's Birthday has been observed by the federal government on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States. Washington's Birthday became a legal holiday in 1879 and became a holiday for all federal employees in 1885.



February is a month when some states honor the legacy of two or all past presidents and reflect on their contributions to our great nation. Many service members will use this federal holiday to travel to visit family and friends. If you plan to drive during Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) weekend, be mindful that we are in the height of the winter season and that snow and ice are very prevalent across many states. The following "Safety Tips" are offered to help identify and mitigate potential travel risks:

BRIEFING TOPICS: Safety Briefs, Driving Safety, Weather/Road Conditions, and Risk Management

SAFETY TIPS:

- **SAFETY BRIEFS:** Leadership must administer pre-holiday safety briefings for their personnel. Highlight seasonal risks, common mishap causal factors, best practices, mentorship responsibilities, and command policies. Stress personnel safety and accountability.
- **DRIVING SAFETY:** Inspect vehicle before traveling. Be well-rested before driving, and stop every 2 hours or 100 miles (whichever occurs first). Adhere to posted speed limits. Always wear seatbelts and ensure occupants are properly buckled. Avoid distractions when driving. Place cell phone out of reach or turn off while driving. Slow down at first sight of precipitation, and extend following distance. Avoid using cruise control or overdrive in inclement conditions. Be aware that bridges and overpasses freeze first. Ensure windshield is clean and wipers are in optimum condition. Maintain a reserve of wiper fluid. Drive with headlights on. Always look twice for motorcycles when pulling out into traffic. Inform someone of travel plans, route, and estimated arrival/return. Allow sufficient return time to avoid speeding. Never drink and drive. Use a designated driver or taxi, call a friend, or stay where you are until you're sober.
- **WEATHER/ROAD CONDITIONS:** During winter season, monitor weather conditions closely. Stay tuned to temperatures and traffic alerts along route. Keep gas gauge above halfway mark. Maintain an emergency kit (phone, charger, blankets, water, shovel, sand or kitty-liter, flashlight, maps, reflective triangle, ice scraper, and non-perishable food).
- **RISK MANAGEMENT:** Understand that driving is a risky task, and not all risks can be mitigated. The goal is to eliminate unnecessary risks. Anticipate and manage risks by planning properly. Make smart decisions based on known risks and after implementing proper controls.