



SAFETY TIPS

2022 VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND



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 American veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Veterans Day is widely viewed as the beginning of the winter safety campaign. The following 'Tips' are offered to help prepare a seasonal mindset change and ensure you have a safe Veterans Day Weekend:

TRAVEL TIPS: The potential for wintery road conditions in some areas increases around Veterans Day weekend. This demands operators be more aware of their surroundings, drive defensively, and exercise extreme caution-especially when driving at night. Get a good night sleep prior to any long distance driving. Complete a "TRiPS" risk assessment to lower travel risks. Seatbelts save lives; Buckle up for every drive and avoid speeding. Extend vehicle following distances for added safety. Place cell phone out of reach, or turn it off until safely parked. Don't rely on caffeine drinks to beat fatigue, instead pull over in a safe area and rest. Be extremely vigilant when exiting your vehicle near the roadway.



FACTOID: Drowsy Driving and Speeding kills; according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2020, there were 633 deaths related to drowsy driving crashes, and 11,258 speeding related deaths. These are preventable deaths.



SEASONAL SAFETY: Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends Sunday, 6 November. Be sure to adjust clocks "fallback" one hour on that Saturday evening. This is a good time to change the batteries in your household smoke detectors. Expect to see an increase in deer near roadways. Don't veer for deer, instead stay in your lane and brake firmly with both hands on the steering wheel. During fall season, sun angles are lower and can create significant glare. Wear sunglasses that omit glare and use vehicle sun visors. Be mindful of falling leaves in the roadway; if they become wet they can create slip hazards. There will be an increase of nighttime driving with days getting shorter. Be especially cautious for pedestrians and bicyclists in the early evenings.

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND MISHAPS: Over the last few years, several off-duty mishaps have occurred to our MARFORCOM Marines around the Veteran's Day weekend. These events include:

- ❖ LCpl, speeding while riding a friend's motorcycle. LCpl had been drinking and crashed. LCpl had no license and no training, and was not a member of the Motorcycle Mentorship Program.
- ❖ Cpl, driving on base, lost control of vehicle and struck another car, suffered severe injuries.
- ❖ LCpl, enroute to visit mother, fell asleep behind the wheel (0100), crashed, suffered severe head trauma. Injuries resulted in LCpl being a Permanent Total Disability.
- ❖ LCpl, while riding, lost traction and was thrown off motorcycle, resulting in serious injuries.
- ❖ LCpl, entering base gate, was rear-ended by a vehicle; sustained head/neck injury.
- ❖ LCpl, while cleaning hand gun, suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to leg and ankle.

Get A Copy



Share A Copy

WEATHER: Be aware of seasonal changes and weather outlook for your area. Plan appropriately to avoid driving in inclement weather. Keep wiper blades in optimum condition and windshield washer reservoir full. Prior to long-distance travel, especially in northern states, ensure vehicle is equipped with an emergency kit consisting of water, non-perishable food, flashlight, shovel, sand/kitty litter (for traction), warm clothes, blankets, cell phone and charger. Inform someone of your travel plans, route, planned stops, and estimated time of arrival.



DID YOU KNOW? Raymond Weeks, aka the "Father of Veteran's Day", was a World War II veteran. He organized "National Veteran's Day" which included a parade and other festivities to honor all veterans. He changed the holiday name in his hometown of Birmingham, AL in 1947; then seven years later Congress changed the name nation-wide. He received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Ronald Reagan in November 1982.

DRINK RESPONSIBLY: This Veterans Day weekend, honor all who served by displaying behaviors consistent with our core 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 has proven to impair judgment and decision making, thus jeopardizing your safety and success. Continue to make smart decisions and take care of one another.



RESOURCES:

- ❖ <https://www.nhtsa.gov/>
- ❖ <https://www.weather.gov/>
- ❖ <https://trips.safety.army.mil/marines/TRiPS-Assessment>
- ❖ <https://www.military.com/veterans-day/events.html>

RISK MANAGEMENT (RM): Every Marine is responsible for breaking the chain of events that leads to a mishap. Incorporate 'In-Depth' or 'Deliberate' planning into your Veterans Day weekend activities. Exercise discipline in avoiding needless risks and their consequences. Maintain a heightened situational awareness at all times. Use the "battle buddy" system.



Manage the Risk



Protect the Force