



SAFETY TIPS

2023 NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve is a special time many look forward to spending with family and friends. Some may reflect on their accomplishments, blessings, and friendships made during the year. Others may see it as an opportunity to start anew, create new goals or make new resolutions. To accompany your annual celebrations and traditions, the following 'Safety Tips' are provided to highlight common hazards, mitigate mishaps, and help ring in the New Year - *safely*:

SAFETY FIRST



NO Cell Phone
Use While
DRIVING

DRIVING SAFETY: If you drive on New Year's Eve, **drive defensively!** Be mindful of distracted and/or impaired drivers. Wear a seatbelt and ensure all occupants are buckled. Remain hyper-vigilant to traffic and pedestrians. Monitor vehicle speed to avoid exceeding posted speed limits. Communicate travel plans and routes. Stay alert to changes in weather and road conditions. Avoid engaging in distractions which may divert your attention from driving. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2021, there were nearly 43,000 lives lost on U.S. roadways. Of these, 3,522 were distraction-related crash fatalities.

Put your phone down while driving – It's the Law!

FIREWORKS SAFETY: Every year thousands of people are injured while handling fireworks, and many find their way into local emergency rooms. Over 80% of fireworks injuries involve hands, eyes, and face. Never point a firework at a person or animal. If lighting off fireworks, keep a bucket of water or hose readily available. Know and follow your city and state firework ordinances. Do not use fireworks if consuming alcohol or when near flammable material. Understand that animals have very sensitive ears and can be easily scared during fireworks. Keep your furry friends indoors during firework displays. Firearms should not be used in lieu of fireworks.



PARTY TIPS: If attending a party with friends ensure everyone remains together. Don't allow someone who's been drinking to leave with strangers or be pulled away from the group. Consider packing an overnight bag if unable to get home safely. If hosting a New Year's Eve party, consider collecting car keys at the door. Offer food, non-alcoholic beverages, and overnight stays. Practice food safety. Offer individually packaged snacks. Monitor guests' alcohol intake. Don't hesitate to cut guests off if they've had too much. Know that in some states, party hosts may be held liable for guests' actions after they leave your party.



ALCOHOL AWARENESS: Drink responsibly and never drink and drive. Have a plan that eliminates the possibility of driving if you've consumed any alcohol. Options include designate a driver, call a friend or taxi, use an Uber, Lyft, or stay put until safe/sober to drive. Know your limit and don't exceed it. Eat prior to drinking and stay hydrated. Alternate with water between alcohol drinks. Avoid binge drinking or participating in drinking games. Direct champagne corks away from yourself and others.

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DID YOU KNOW? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, six Americans die every day from alcohol poisoning. Although binge drinking is most common among young adults, the large majority of alcohol poisoning deaths were men, ages 35 to 64. NHTSA states that every day about 37 people in the U.S. die in drunk-driving crashes - that's one person every 39 minutes. In 2021, there were 13,384 deaths in drunk-driving crashes, a 14% increase from 2020.

Remember, buzzed driving is drunk driving!

NEW YEAR'S EVE MISHAPS: Over the last few years, several off-duty mishaps occurred to Marines around New Year's Eve. Consider how these mishaps could have been prevented:

- Cpl crashed motorcycle after vehicles pulled out in front of rider; rider suffered multiple injuries.
- Sgt and two civilian passengers were killed in a single vehicle crash while on holiday leave.
- Cpl accidentally shot by LCpl while participating in recreational shooting. Alcohol was involved.
- LCpl involved in vehicle crash, suffered significant injuries to face and skull.
- Cpl sustained a gunshot wound to foot while cleaning a personally owned firearm.
- Cpl while asleep, was killed when house caught fire and collapsed.

WEATHER: Carry tools and materials in your vehicle capable of handling winter driving related issues or emergencies:

- Snow shovel, broom, ice scraper, abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter (for traction should vehicle gets stuck in the snow);
- Jumper cables, flashlights, warning devices such as flares and emergency markers, and blankets for protection from the cold;
- Cell phone w/charger, water, food, map, and medicines.



RISK MANAGEMENT: The goal of Risk Management (RM) is to identify hazards and mitigate risk. Use RM with all holiday planning/traveling. Remain in control of your schedule. Avoid over-extending yourself; be selective with holiday commitments. Eat healthy and maintain an exercise regimen. Self-evaluate stress levels; notify someone if feeling overwhelmed or depressed. Look after one another, show dignity and respect toward others, and always adhere to our Corps values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

RESOURCES:

- ❖ [https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving;](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving)
- ❖ [Fireworks Safety - National Safety Council \(nsc.org\)](https://www.nsc.org)
- ❖ [Winter Driving Tips | NHTSA](https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips)
- ❖ [Ready.Gov Winter Weather Safety](https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather-safety)
- ❖ [TRiPS USMC Home \(army.mil\)](https://www.army.mil/trips)



Manage the Risk



Protect the Force