



# SAFETY TIPS

## 2023 PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

President's Day will be observed Monday, 20 February 2023. On this day we pay tribute to two of our most notable Presidents and reflect on their significant contributions to our great nation. If you will be driving over this holiday weekend, be mindful that we are in the height of the winter season. Snow and ice may be prevalent across many states. The following Tips are offered to help identify and mitigate the many potential seasonal hazards we face:



**SAFETY BRIEFS:** Leaders must continually communicate that consistent application of risk management is critical to mission success and reduction of mishaps. Provide pre-holiday/long weekend safety briefs, promote seasonal risks, common causal factors, best practices, mentorship responsibilities, and command travel policies. Encourage the use of Travel Risk Planning System "TRiPS" assessments and vehicle inspections. Stress personal safety, accountability, taking care of yourself, and applying the 5-step risk management process: 1) Identify Hazards, 2) Assess Hazards, 3) Make Risk Decisions, 4) Implement Controls, and 5) Supervise.

**DRIVING SAFETY:** Begin all travel well-rested. Stop and rest every two hours or 100 miles (whichever occurs first). Avoid driving during normal sleep times. Adhere to all posted speed limits. Ensure all vehicle occupants are buckled. Avoid distractions while driving. Place cell phone out of reach or turn off until safely parked. Many states have enacted laws (and fines) against holding cell phones while driving. Look twice for motorcycles when pulling out into traffic. Their smaller profiles make them difficult to see. Never drink and drive. Use a designated driver, call a friend, taxi, Uber or Lyft, or stay where you are until sober. Consider the consequences - before driving. Use TRiPS risk assessments prior to long distance driving. Notify leadership or mentor when plans change. Re-assess risks based on current situation and elements.



### **DRIVING STATISTICS (NHTSA, 2020):**

- Over 38,680 lives were lost in traffic crashes.
- More than 6,200 pedestrians were killed.
- Fatigue/Drowsy driving was responsible for 630 motor vehicle deaths.
- Speeding killed 11,258 people.
- Every day, 32 people die in drunk driving crashes - that one every 45 minutes.
- More than 3,140 lives were lost due to distraction driving.

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**PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND MISHAPS:** Over the last few years, Marines and Sailors have been involved in mishaps around the President's Day weekend. Recommend leaders/mentors discuss these events and mitigation steps. Some of these mishaps include:

- LCpl driving car, involved in a multiple-vehicle fatal crash. LCpl was seven months pregnant;
- LCpl riding motorcycle, lost control and crashed; life-flighted to hospital with serious injuries;
- Cpl riding with other riders, crashed head-on into another rider; both riders died from injuries;
- LCpl operating a truck, lost control while swerving to avoid a deer and crashed into a guardrail;
- Cpl operating motor vehicle, struck head-on by another vehicle that was going the wrong way; taken to local hospital with severe injuries;
- PFC attempted to move a .40 S&W from between pass seat & console to the glove box. During movement, a round was discharged striking PFC in the thigh; flown to local hospital.

**WEATHER / ROAD CONDITIONS:** Whether it's snow, sleet or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. In 2020, there were over 400 fatal crashes, and an estimated 33,000 injury crashes that occurred in wintry conditions. Prepare yourself and your vehicle for winter weather. Monitor weather and road conditions along route. Slow down at first sign of precipitation and extend following distance. Avoid using cruise control or overdrive in inclement weather. Maintain a vehicle emergency kit (phone, charger, blankets, warm clothes, water, non-perishable food, shovel, sand or kitty-liter for traction, flashlight, maps, reflective triangle, ice scraper, jumper cables, & emergency numbers). Always have a back-up plan. Keep leadership aware if plan changes.



**RESOURCES:**

- <https://trips.safety.army.mil/SelectYourBranch.aspx>
- [Risk Management \(marines.mil\)](#)
- [NHTSA | National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)

**RISK MANAGEMENT:** Continually identify & assess hazards and implement appropriate controls. Every Marine and Sailor is responsible for breaking the chain of events that may lead to a mishap. Adherence to RM principles coupled with safety awareness enhances readiness. Continue to look after one another and show dignity and respect toward others.

Manage the Risk



Protect the Force