



SAFETY TIPS

2023 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 also 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 the 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. Completing a "TRiPS" risk assessment can help identify and lower travel risks. Seatbelts save lives; Buckle up for every drive and avoid speeding. Extend vehicle following distances for added safety. Eliminate distractions while driving. Place cell phone out of reach or turn it off until safely parked. Avoid actions which could escalate into road rage. Be vigilant when exiting your vehicle near the roadway. Avoid eating heavy meals prior to long distance drives. Don't rely on caffeine drinks to beat fatigue, instead pull over in a safe area and rest when feeling tired.



FACTOID: Drowsy Driving and Speeding kills; according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2021, there were 684 deaths related to drowsy driving crashes, and 12,330 speeding related deaths. Both factors increased from the previous year. These are preventable deaths.



SEASONAL SAFETY: Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends **Sunday, 5 November**. Be sure to adjust clocks "fallback" one hour on that Saturday evening. 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. Driving during the Fall will yield in an increase in nighttime driving. Be especially cautious for pedestrians and bicyclists.

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND MISHAPS: Over the last few years, several mishaps 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 violently 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 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, fell and hit head while playing two hand touch football; sustained severe concussion.
- ❖ Sgt, while distracted, fell near apartment, resulting in a fractured leg.
- ❖ LCpl, while cleaning a handgun, 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 and 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: Every day, about 37 people in the U.S. die in drunk-driving crashes - that's one person every 39 minutes. In 2021, 13,384 people died in alcohol-impaired driving traffic deaths. 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 situation 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. Always maintain a heightened situational awareness. Use the “battle buddy” system. Make smart decisions and continue to watch out for one another.



Manage the Risk



Protect the Force