



# SAFETY TIPS

## 2024 PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

President's Day will be observed Monday, 19 February 2024. 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 integration and 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 one-another, and apply 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 of your actions - before driving. Notify leadership or mentor when plans change. Re-assess risks based on current situation.



### **DRIVING STATISTICS (NHTSA, 2021):**

- On U.S. roadways, **speeding** killed 12,330 people;
- More than 3,522 lives were lost due to **distracted driving**;
- **Seatbelt** use in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 14,955 lives.
- **Drunk driving** crashes killed 13,384 people—a 14% increase from 2020; Every day, 37 people die in drunk driving crashes - that one every 39 minutes.
- **Fatigue/Drowsy driving** was responsible for 684 motor vehicle deaths.

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**PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND MISHAPS:** Over the last few years, Marines and Sailors have been involved in various mishaps around the President's Day weekend. Recommend leaders/mentors discuss these events and mitigation tactics. 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 vehicle, struck head-on by another vehicle going the wrong way;
- PFC attempted to move a .40 S&W from between passenger 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 2021, there were 395 fatal crashes, and an estimated 22,325 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. Monitor tire pressure and battery conditions. 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 of changes.



**RESOURCES:**

- <https://trips.safety.army.mil/SelectYourBranch.aspx>
- [Risk Management \(marines.mil\)](https://www.marines.mil/Portals/0/Files/2019/07/190701a.pdf)
- [NHTSA | National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](https://www.nhtsa.gov/)

**RISK MANAGEMENT:** 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 personal safety and readiness. Continue to look after one another and show dignity and respect toward others.



Manage the Risk



Protect the Force