



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Risk Management - Winter Driving

With winter here, the potential for snowfall highlights the need for everyone to focus their attention on winter driving.

Holiday trips to visit family may take individuals to areas where the driving conditions may not be favorable. This situation provides individuals an opportunity to use RISK MANAGEMENT. The following you can reduce the risks while driving in winter weather.

Identify the Hazard

A hazard can be defined as any real or potential condition that can cause injury, illness or death to personnel or damage to, or loss of equipment or property.

Few would accept a risk that is unnecessary. However, if the hazard is not identified, one may inadvertently do so.

By approaching winter road trips from the point of view of a cautious skeptic, one should be able to identify hazards by simply asking, "WHAT IF..."

Using this hazard identification tool, the list of hazards quickly forms:

- Fogged interior windows
- Improper tires
- Inadequate attire
- Lack of sleep
- White-out conditions

Assess the Risk

Assessment is the detection of hazards and the application of measurements to the level of risk they represent. (The assessment step is the process quantifies probability, severity and cost.)

Assessing each hazard with respect to probability and severity, one quickly gets an idea of which hazards need to be addressed first. Those items that have a high probability of occurrence

and a severe impact on mission success, would be high risk, while those with little probability of occurrence, probability of occurrence and impact on mission success would be low risk.

When time or resources are limited, develop control measures for only the most risky items. The list may be similar to the following:

- **Snow/ice covered road:** Wait for improved weather conditions or for crews to clear the roads.
- **Improper clothing:** Wear loose layered clothing, hats, gloves, etc.
- **Fogged interior windows:** Adequately preheat interior windows and/or use an anti-fog product.
- **Low fuel level:** A 3/4 full tank decreases the possibility of condensation in fuel lines.
- **Improper tires:** Consider using snow tires or snow chains as appropriate for local conditions.
- **Whiteout conditions:** Wait for improved weather conditions.
- **Ice/snow build-up on windshield:** Use the defroster and a windshield washer fluid with an anti-freezing agent. If ice/snow is accumulating while driving, stop periodically to clear the windshield.
- **Unique winter vehicles/activities:** Be alert for salt trucks, snow plows, stranded vehicles, snow mobiles, skiers, sleds, etc.
- **Back roads:** If at all possible, avoid the use of back/unnumbered roads during winter weather.
- **Emergency kit:** Make a kit or buy one.
- **Vehicle winter check-up:** Have vehicle winterized/mechanically checked prior to winter weather. Have all fluids checked, tire condition checked, etc.
- **Time of travel:** Wait for better lighting conditions, fog to dissipate, etc.
- **Adequate sleep:** Get the proper amount needed.
- **Medication:** Follow the directions from the doctor and those on the bottle.
- **Alcohol:** If you drink, don't drive.

Although this only briefly addresses the RISK MANAGEMENT process, one can see the highlighted areas for potential for loss.