



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

Critical Days Of Summer



This is a hectic time of year; children are out of school and long-planned vacations are now in view. When you made those travel plans, did you consider the hazards and risks associated with driving long hours in heavy traffic? How about the risks associated with boating, swimming and hiking? If you think such innocent sounding activities aren't hazardous, think again.

A few rules to follow before you hit the highway:

- Ensure your vehicle is “road ready”. Perform a pre-trip inspection.
 - Inspection to identify any problems. Check the brakes, lights, spare tire, fluids, belts and windshield wipers.
 - Don't forget a tool kit for emergency repairs.
- Travel during the day and get plenty of rest.
 - Most crashes occur between midnight and 0600. Fatigue kills.
- Buckle up, wear your seat belt properly; check passengers.
 - And ensure child safety seats are properly installed.
- Drive defensively.
- Don't speed.
- Don't drive after drinking.
- Plan your route carefully and ensure someone else knows your plan.
 - Where you're going, when you plan to arrive, what route(s) you'll use and when you plan to return.

Water sports are particularly dangerous.

Make sure you know the water depth and what's beneath the surface. Hedge your bets: swim where lifeguards are present. When boating, don't let “dead in the water” describe you at the end of the day. Wear a personal flotation device. File a float plan before leaving the dock. As temperatures rise, the potential for heat-related injuries increase. Ensure information for preventing, recognizing and treating heat related injuries is readily available to all. And speaking of heat: leave firework displays to the professionals.

To recap: years ago we claimed our independence and democracy was born.

This is the time to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice for that freedom. The critical days of summer demand your utmost caution. It is a time to be especially careful. Ensure your survival this summer by making risk management a key element in all your plans. Ask yourself what can go wrong, and what you can do to prevent it from going wrong. Honest answers to these simple questions will help you avoid disaster and permit you to enjoy this and many other holidays with your family and friends. Be a survivor.