



Vigilance throughout the Holidays

Senior Enlisted Advisers,

As blustery winter conditions blanket many of our installations around the world, some locations bask in year-round temperate climates. Many may not realize that the Army loses Soldiers to water-related accidents year round, including the December through February timeframe. We've developed an interactive water safety tool designed to raise awareness of hazards that Soldiers may face: <https://safety.army.mil/SafetyCity>.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, <http://www.nfpa.org/>, 1,345,500 total fires were reported during 2015 in the U.S. resulting in 3,280 deaths, 15,700 injuries and \$14.3 billion in property damage. We all need to take extra precaution during wintertime especially as we use our space heaters, light the season's first fire or string up holiday lights. Here's a video we produced that discusses using space heaters: <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/VideoLibrary/VideoPlayer/TabId/112/VideoId/290/Readyor-Not--Space-Heaters.aspx>.

Hunting season is in full swing and undoubtedly, Soldiers are venturing out in search of deer, waterfowl and small game. I ask that you talk to your Soldiers and remind them to hunt safely. Here's an article with advice on how to have an enjoyable yet safe hunting experience: https://safety.army.mil/Portals/0/Documents/MEDIA/SEASONALSAFTEYCAMPAGNS/AUTUMNWINTER2015-16/Standard/FINAL_ASAW_hunting_safety_js_30June2015.pdf.

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month and here's a question we have to ask ourselves and our Soldiers: Impaired driving, why take the risk? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every day, 28 people in the U.S. die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. That's equivalent to one death every 53 minutes. Army accident reports show that to date for fiscal 2016, four Soldiers have died in alcohol-related private motor vehicle accidents. Here's a campaign article that talks about the perils of impaired driving: <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Knowledge/tabid/97/ArticleID/528/ArtMID/478/Preview.aspx>.

BG Farnsworth and I would like to give a special thanks to those who submitted nominations for the annual GEICO-sponsored Military Service Award. GEICO will officially announce winners in mid to early spring.

As we gather to celebrate the holiday season with our Friends and Loved ones, let's not forget our deployed Brothers and Sisters. We are an Army Professional Team, an Army Family and remember, what we do every day affects each other. Stay safe and celebrate this Holiday Season safely!

Army Safe is Army Strong!

Terry D. Burton
Command Sergeant Major