



2023

101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER



The 101 Critical Days of Summer is the longest vacation period of the year for military members, beginning Memorial Day weekend and ending Labor Day weekend. Summer also includes four holidays, which are frequently approved as long weekends for uniformed personnel.

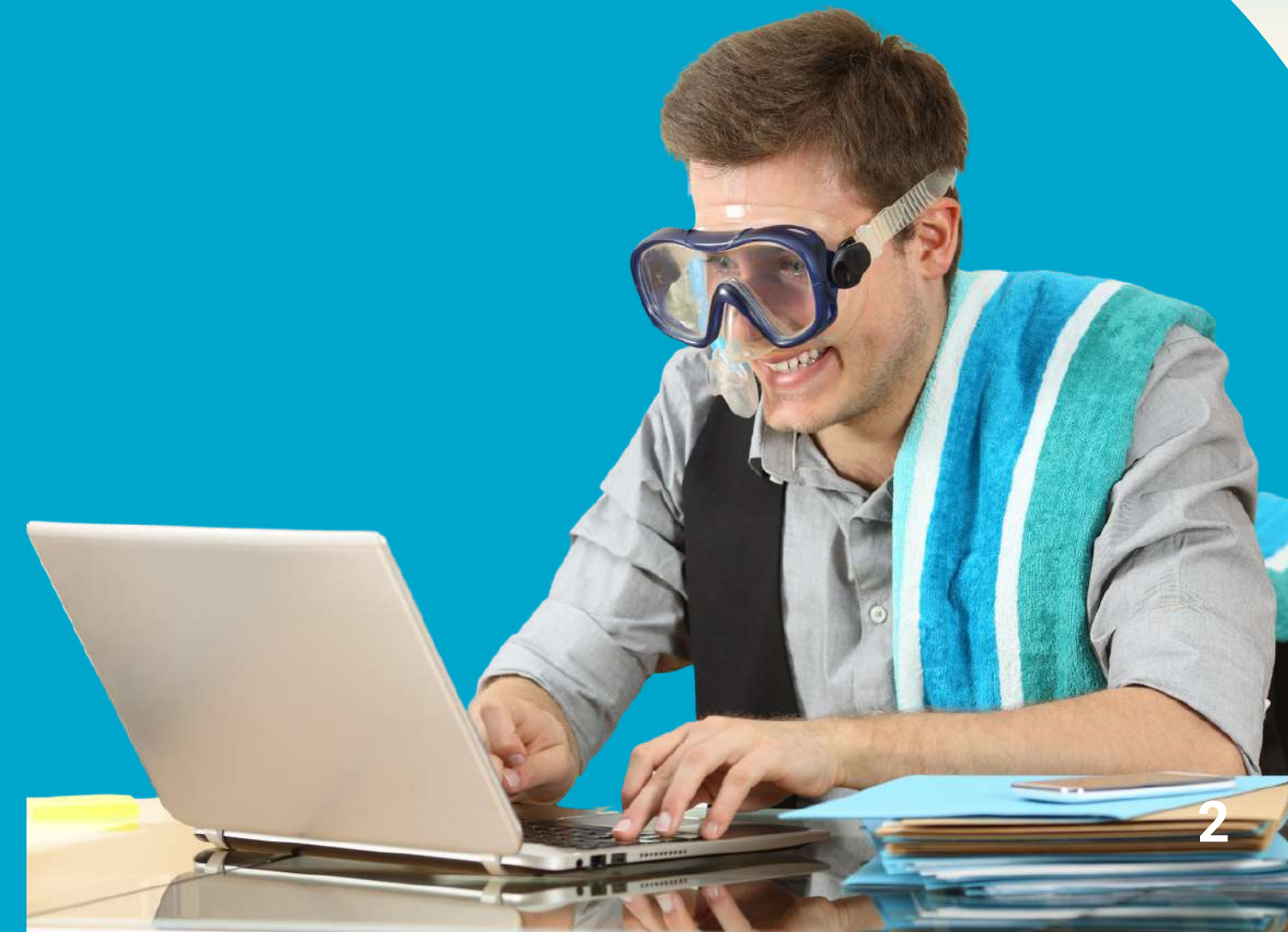
Potential lapses in judgment while engaging in summer activities can impact the readiness of Sailors and Marines. A general lack of situational awareness and complacency are root causes in numerous off-duty mishaps every summer.

This presentation provides general summer safety information to help you – and your team – maintain an active risk management mindset to help ensure an enjoyable and safe summer.

ID numbers of off-duty mishaps reported during the last two summer seasons in Risk Management Information (RMI) are included as well. The next slide addresses how safety professionals with access to RMI can share redacted versions of these examples to protect safety privileged information (PSI) and personally identifiable information (PII).

Introduction

Manage Your Risk



PSI and PII Protection of Mishap Examples

The last two slides of this presentation offer limited factual information regarding the RMI mishap examples noted throughout. Safety professionals with access to RMI can research the examples with one caution: while helpful for general background information for use by safety professionals, avoid going beyond factual information by releasing privileged safety information (PSI) or personally identifiable information (PII).

Note: Commander, Naval Safety Command is custodian of and sole release authority for PSI. The Safety Privilege is meant to encourage candor from witnesses and board members to identify root causes of mishaps and take corrective actions to prevent future mishaps.

Please contact NAVSAFECOM with any questions.





Last Summer Fatalities

During the 101 Critical Days of Summer in 2022, the Department of the Navy lost 29 Sailors and Marines to preventable off-duty mishaps. Motor vehicle and motorcycle mishaps were the leading causes.

One off-duty death is one too many.

Top Activities that Hurt Us Last Summer



- PMV-4 (automobiles) - Two fatalities were pedestrians.
- PMV-2 (motorcycles) - For perspective, only 10% of service members are motorcycle riders.
- Team sports - Basketball incurred the most, followed by softball.
- In the home - Cuts, trips, falls, cooking and lifting/moving objects.
- Outdoors - Hiking, walking, swimming, camping, diving and boating.
- Individual physical training (PT) - Mainly while running and weightlifting.
- Bicycles, stairs and dogs.

We Know What You Did Last Summer

Opening frozen ice cream container with knife.

Chopping wood, then hatchet bounces.

Jumps while playing basketball, lands on another player's foot.

While camping, drops hot fire log on feet.

While riding motorcycle, brakes lock.

Attempts to remove feral cat from dumpster, then bitten by cat.

Slips off boat onto engine.

While hosting social gathering, slips on deck.

Weed eater motor explodes during start up.

Slips while hiking, falls 20 feet.

Tumbles over mountain bike handlebars.

Riding E-scooter off road, falls when front wheel embeds in loose sand.

Wrestling while drinking, dislocated shoulder.

Dirt bike riding, thrown from bike.

Driving ATV, attempts to avoid puddle, uses brakes and flies over handlebar.

Surfer at shoreline startles unknown sea creature who punctures foot.

Events reported as hazards in RMI.

Luck is not a superpower. Make consideration of risks and hazards an ingrained part of your life, on and off duty.

The Navy's Get Real, Get Better (GRBG) call to action empowers us to self-assess and self-correct risk both on and off duty.

We must adopt a learning mindset and commit to work collaboratively to educate, inform and hold each other accountable for decisions we make.

The majority of off-duty recreational mishaps are entirely preventable and avoidable, provided we assess risks and comply with laws, procedures and recommended best practices for a given activity.

GET REAL

GET BETTER

An active risk management mindset contributes to readiness.

Water-Related Activities

- The Department of the Navy lost 1 Sailor during the 2022 Critical Days of Summer due to drowning.
- 4 Sailors sustained injuries that resulted in loss of time from work.



Boating example: RMI ID# 181548
Swimming example: RMI ID# 836439

Adult Swimming Safety

- Don't swim alone. Always swim with a partner.
- Never swim under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication.
- Know and observe your swimming limitations and capabilities.
- Avoid swift-moving water. If caught in a current, swim with it and angle toward shore or the edge of the current. (Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore that can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.)
- Stay out of the water during thunderstorms and severe weather.
- Don't get too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun exposure or experience too much strenuous activity.

Maintain self-awareness of swimming skills.



Adult Swimming Safety

- The American Canoe Association estimates almost 70% of drownings involving canoes, kayaks and rafts could have been avoided if a personal flotation device (PFD) was worn.
- Label gear with contact info. Labeling gear with your name and two contact numbers could help the U.S. Coast Guard identify your equipment in case of an emergency.
- The U.S. Coast Guard offers a nationwide program called Paddle Smart to encourage people to label their equipment. You can get a free, reflective waterproof sticker for your gear at local boating supply stores, canoe clubs and harbor masters.
- Have a way to call for help. Ensure cell phone is charged and in a waterproof case or take a two-way radio with you. For serious adventurers, consider purchasing a personal location beacon, outfitted with a flotation sleeve.

Anyone can drown, even the most experienced.



Boating Safety

- **Follow a pre-departure checklist.** Using a pre-departure checklist is a helpful way to check the boat and ensure the proper gear is aboard.
- **Be weather-wise.** Always check local, route and destination weather and water conditions before departure and ensure it is safe to go out.
- **Use common sense.** Operate at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas; stay alert and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn.
- **Know the nautical rules of the seas.** Maintain a proper lookout and respect buoys and other navigational aids, all of which are in place to ensure your safety and the safety of the boats around you.
- **Remain sober if you are the skipper.** A boat operator is likely to become impaired quicker than a driver. Operating a boat while intoxicated is illegal. Nearly half of all boating accidents involve alcohol.
- **Designate an assistant skipper.** Make sure more than one person aboard is familiar with boat handling, operations and general boating safety, in case the primary operator is incapacitated and someone else needs to get the boat back to shore.

Use common boating sense.



Boating Safety

- **Develop a float plan.** Let someone else know where you're going and your estimated time of return. A float plan can include the following information: name, address, and phone number of trip leader and passengers; boat type and registration information; trip itinerary; types of communication and signal equipment aboard, such as an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon.
- **Have life jackets on hand.** Assign and fit each passenger and crew member with a life jacket before departure.
- **Be aware of carbon monoxide.** Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat. Educate all passengers about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may accumulate.
- **Skip swimming in a marina.** Never swim in a marina or in other areas where boats are connected to shore power. Stray power in the water can create an electric shock hazard.
- **Stay clear of the engine.** Drivers should wear the boat engine's cut-off switch lanyard at all times. Keep watch around the propeller area when people are in the water. Never allow passengers to board or exit your boat from the water when engines are on or idling. Take extra precautions near boats towing skiers or tubers.

Use common boating sense.



Boating Safety

Shout – “Man overboard!”

Spot – Locate the person in the water and keep an eye on them at all times. With waves and the boat’s movement, it’s easy to lose track of your victim.

Throw – Toss a flotation device into the water for the victim to latch onto.

Boat Turn Around* – Turn back toward the victim to pick them up.

Pull or Climb – Return to the victim’s side, toss a lifeline, and tow them in. Or you can pull the victim by the life vest into the boat. If they’re strong enough, they may be able to climb aboard via the swim ladder.

**Note: Two types of turns are used to quickly return to the point of origin: The elliptical (an oval racetrack-shaped turn) and the Williamson (most appropriate at night or in reduced visibility). We recommend conducting a search for "rescue turns" in your browser to find out how or to review.*

Man overboard!



Diving Safety

- Always test water depth before diving. If unable to see below water surface, don't dive.
- Never dive into rivers or other moving bodies of water. Keep your arms extended above your head when diving.
- Don't drink. Drinking before a dive entails a number of risks, including nitrogen narcosis, heat loss and impaired judgment that affects reaction time, attention span and visual tracking, among others.
- Don't smoke. It's advisable to abstain from smoking at least 12 hours before your dive.
- Get medically assessed. Some medical conditions are not compatible with diving. Even a common cold or sinus infection can prevent you from going under.
- Double-check your gear. Whether you own your gear or rent it, always do a safety check. Inspect the gear for wear and tear; look for faulty zippers, cracked buckles, straps or frayed areas that could lead to leaks. Your regulator and tank should also get checked regularly for functional issues.

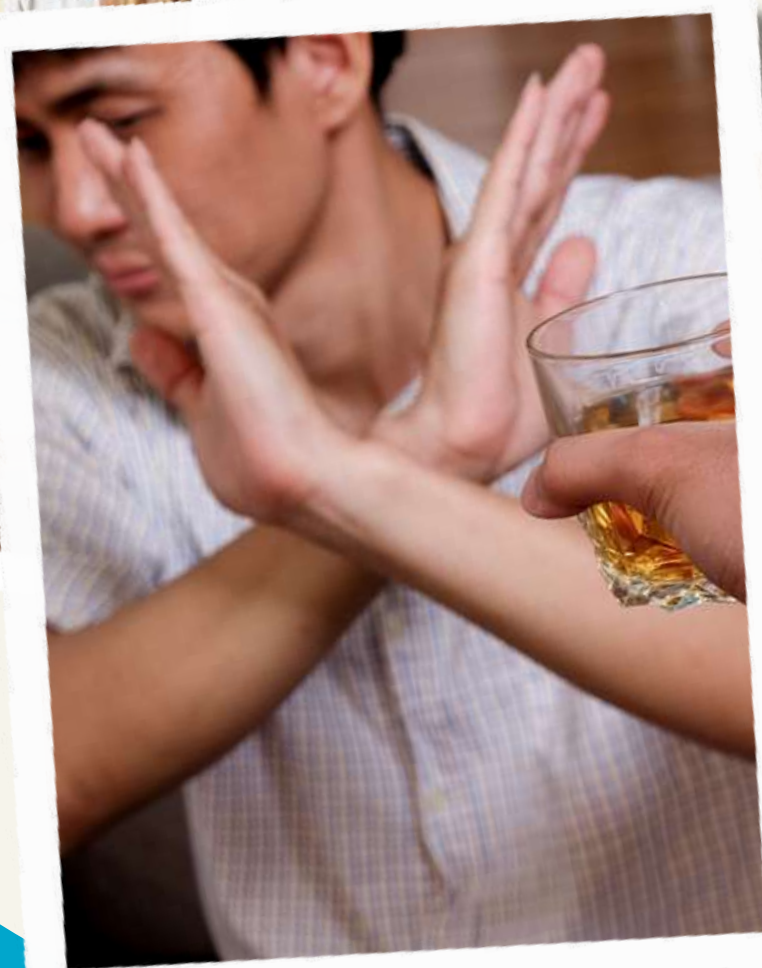
Disclaimer: The information offered above is designed for educational purposes only. Do not rely solely on this information; seek professional advice on all matters related to scuba diving safety. If you have any further concerns or questions, consult with your guide, dive master or diving instructor.

Observe warning signs.



Alcohol Safety

For some, summer activities may include alcohol, but risky drinking can put a chill on summer fun, says the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. For more information on preventing problems with alcohol this summer and tips on cutting back, visit:
<https://www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov>



Example: RMI ID# 839950

Mixing Sun and Alcohol

The sun causes your body to sweat to stay cool and if those fluids aren't replaced, your body will undergo adverse reactions. You may feel extremely thirsty, dizzy or fatigued.

When people drink alcohol, they may become lackadaisical and reckless, which can have dangerous implications when water is involved.

If you are drinking in or near a body of water be aware that you may lack the dexterity needed to stay afloat, which can increase your risk of drowning (the third leading cause of unintentional injury and death worldwide and fifth in the United States). Sun and heat exposure only amplifies this risk.

Also, the physical exertion of swimming on a hot day paired with alcohol consumption can lead to overheating – a risk factor for heat syncope (fainting), which can have deadly consequences.

Both alcohol and the sun can cause dehydration.

Boaters' Hypnosis

BoatUS Foundation: "Stressors, such as exposure to noise, vibration, sun, glare, wind, and the motion of the water, affect boat operators and passengers, thus drinking while boating is even more dangerous than drinking and driving."

"Research shows that hours of exposure to boating stressors produces a kind of fatigue or 'boater's hypnosis,' which slows reaction time almost as much as if you were legally drunk. Adding alcohol or drugs to boating stress factors intensifies their effects; each drink multiplies your accident risk."

That's why boaters should never drink when operating a boat. Every state has strict drinking and boating laws – you can be arrested on the water. Yes, you can get a Boating Under the Influence (BUI) punishable with the same criteria for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

Fatigue caused by hours of boating.



Weather Safety

In 2021, the following weather events caused the most deaths:

1. Winter weather, 209 deaths
- 2. Heat, 201 deaths
- 3. Floods, 150 deaths

The following weather events caused the most injuries:

- 1. Tornados, 881 injuries
2. Winter weather, 254 injuries
- 3. High winds/thunderstorm winds, 155 injuries

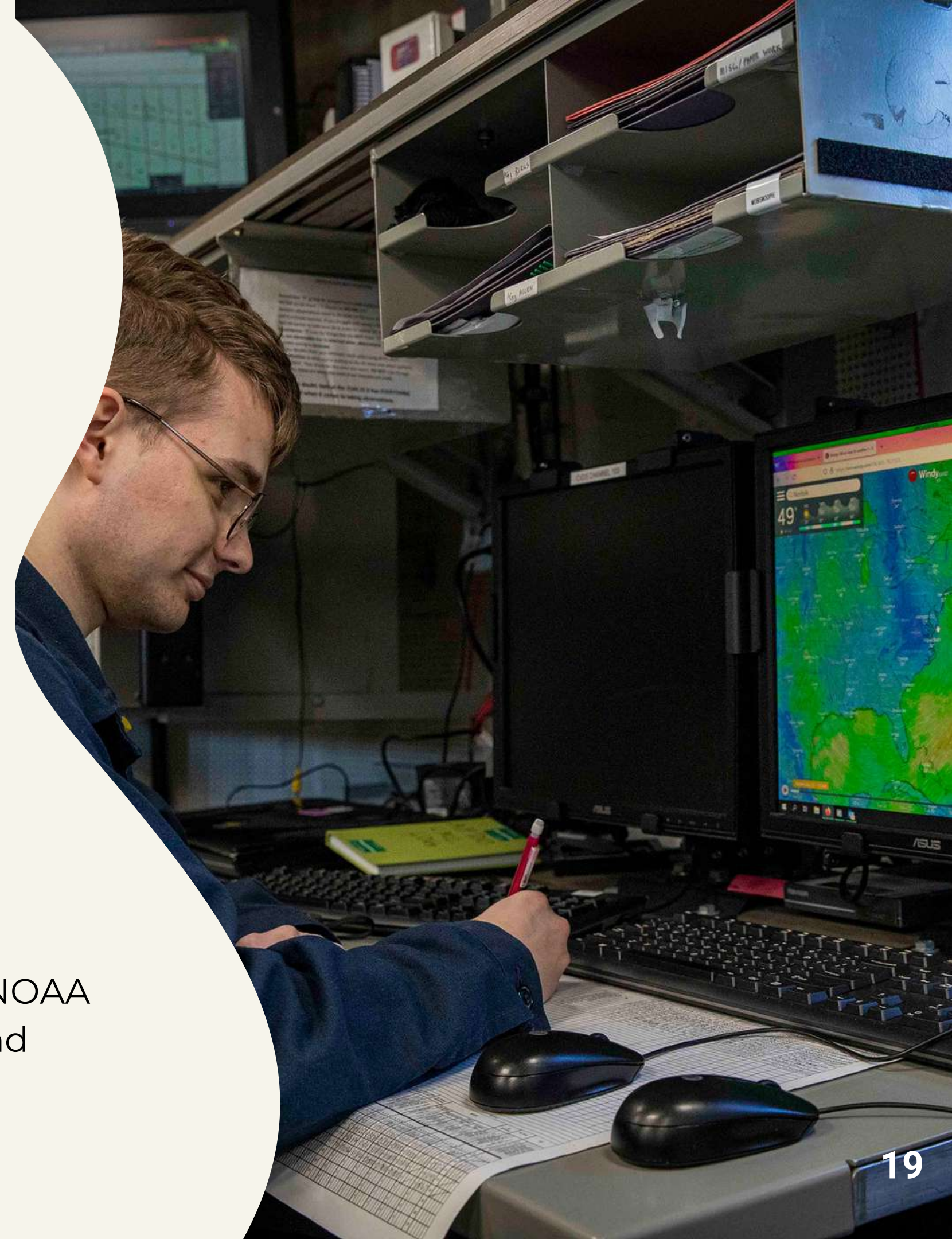
Source: National Safety Council

Example: RMI ID# 661964

Weather Aware

- Weather can cause accidents, property damage, injuries and deaths.
- Become familiar with the terminology that defines weather watches, warnings, advisories and statements.
- Assess where you are and what you are doing and take necessary precautions to ensure safety for you and others.
- Sign up for alerts through your installation, TV and radio stations.
- The Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) system will send emergency alerts to mobile phones if wireless company participates.
- Consider purchasing a portable emergency weather radio with NOAA weather band capability that can run off of solar, batteries or hand crank when power is lost or cell phone service fails.

Remain weather vigilant.



Heat and Sun Safety

In 2021, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported 201 people died and 67 were injured in the U.S. from weather-related excessive heat.



Example: RMI ID# 257883

Heat-related Illness

Heat-Related Illnesses:

Sunburn

Heat Cramps

Heat Exhaustion

Heat Stroke

Definition:

Heat-related illness, or hyperthermia, is a condition resulting from exposure to extreme heat where the body becomes unable to properly cool, resulting in a rapid rise in body temperature.

The evaporation of sweat is the normal way to remove body heat, but, when the humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly. This, in turn, prevents the body from releasing heat quickly.

Prompt treatment of heat-related illnesses with aggressive fluid replacement and cooling of core body temperature is critical to reducing illness and preventing death.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can escalate quickly.



Heat Safety Tips

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- During heat waves, frequently check on people at risk for heat-related death, such as the elderly and disabled or homebound people.
- Never leave children alone in cars and ensure children cannot lock themselves in an enclosed space, such as a car trunk.
- Limit sun exposure during midday hours and in places of potential severe exposure, such as beaches.
- Drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids and replace the body's salts and minerals, which sweating can release. Do not take salt tablets unless under medical supervision.
- Dress infants and children in cool, loose clothing and shade their heads and faces from the sun with hats or an umbrella.
- Provide plenty of fresh water for pets and leave the water in a shady area.

Surviving the hot weather.



Heat Safety Tips

TREATMENT:

- Reduce body temperature by cooling the body.
- Remove unnecessary clothing.
- Apply water, cool air, wet sheets, or ice on the neck, groin and armpits to accelerate cooling.
- Seek professional medical attention immediately!

PREVENTION:

- Stop physical activity and move to a cool place.
- Drink water or a sports drink.
- Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity.

GET MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- Cramps last longer than one hour.
- You're on a low-sodium diet.
- You have heart problems.

Surviving the hot weather.



Sun Safety

Use broad spectrum sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) 15 or higher before you go outside, even on slightly cloudy or cool days. Don't forget to put a thick layer on all parts of exposed skin. Get help for hard-to-reach places like your back. And remember, sunscreen works best when combined with other options to prevent UV damage.

Reapply. Sunscreen wears off if you stay out in the sun for more than two hours and after swimming, sweating or toweling off.

Expiration date. Check the sunscreen's expiration date. Sunscreen without an expiration date has a shelf life of no more than three years, but its shelf life is shorter if it is exposed to high temperatures.

Cosmetics. Some makeup and lip balms contain some of the same sun-protective ingredients used in sunscreens. If they do not have SPF 15 or higher, be sure to use other forms of protection as well, such as sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat.

Sun's UV rays can damage skin in 15 minutes.



Sun Safety

Shade, Clothing, Hat and Sunglasses

You can reduce your risk of skin damage and skin cancer by seeking shade under an umbrella, tree or other shelter before you need relief from the sun.

When possible, long-sleeved shirts and long pants and skirts can provide protection from UV rays. For the most protection, wear a hat with a brim all the way around that shades your face, ears and the back of your neck. A tightly woven fabric, such as canvas, works best to protect your skin from UV rays. Avoid straw hats with holes that let sunlight through. A darker hat may offer more UV protection.

Sunglasses protect your eyes from UV rays and reduce the risk of cataracts. They also protect the delicate skin around your eyes from sun exposure.

Sun's UV rays can damage skin in 15 minutes.



Fireworks Safety

The National Safety Council recommends enjoying fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals and not use any fireworks at home. They may be legal where you reside, but they are not safe. Know the laws pertaining to fireworks in your state.



Example: RMI ID# 662583

General Fireworks Rules

- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands.
- Never light them indoors.
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never ignite devices in a container.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep bucket of water nearby to extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
- Never use illegal fireworks.

If fireworks are legal where you live, use caution!



Sports & Fitness Activities

Team sports ranked third in activities that hurt us the most last summer. Basketball incurred the most, followed by softball.



*Basketball example: RMI ID# 996895
PT example: RMI ID# 944006*

Sports Injury Prevention

- Warm up and stretch before playing any sport.
- Ensure you are physically able to play – see your physician for periodic physicals. Don't participate in a sporting event without a physician's release if you've had a sports injury that required medical attention.
- Wear all proper protective equipment required for the sport: Shoulder pads, elbow pads, knee pads and helmet for football; batting helmets with faceguards; catcher's face mask, throat guard, chest protector and shin guards for baseball.
- Be sure sports protective equipment is in good condition, fits appropriately and is worn correctly at all times. Avoid missing or broken buckles or compressed or worn padding. Poorly fitting equipment may be uncomfortable and may not offer the best protection.

Ensure you are physically able.



Cardio Activities

Follow our tips to ensure your walks, jogs or runs are rewarding and safe:

- Execute warm up exercise before walking, jogging or running.
- Choose shoes for walking, jogging or running.
- Drink plenty of fluids (water or sports drinks) before, during and after.
- Watch for signs of heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- Allow a cool down period.
- Jog, run or walk on sidewalks facing traffic. Exercise caution when jogging, running or walking near roadways.
- Wear bright-colored clothing to improve your visibility.

Be safe while being fit.



Cardio Activities

Walking, jogging and exercising safely for security:

- Jog in a familiar area but vary your routes. Changing the route you take will prevent someone from noting your schedule or movements.
- Jog in open spaces, away from bushes or alcoves where someone could hide.
- Carry your ID. If you suspect you're being followed, call the police immediately and find a safe place to wait for them to arrive.
- Carry a whistle or shrill alarm to summon help if needed.
- Take a key with you. Don't leave your house unlocked.
- Do not run with your phone or other valuables in sight.
- Avoid jogging in secluded areas or at night. If you do run after dark, do so in well-lit and populated areas and consider buying reflective running gear or a runner's light so you're highly visible to traffic.
- Recruit a friend. Runners in pairs or groups are less appealing targets.

Ensure your security while exercising.

Bicycling

When a crash occurs between a vehicle and a bike, it's the cyclist who is most likely to be injured. A large percentage of crashes can be avoided if motorists and cyclists follow the rules of the road and watch out for each other.

- Wear equipment to protect you and make you more visible to others, like an approved bike helmet, bright clothing (during the day), reflective gear, and a white front light and red rear light and reflectors on your bike (at night or when visibility is poor).
- Remember to use arm and hand signals.
- Ride with traffic, not against it.
- Avoid riding at night, if possible. If you must ride at night, install front and rear lights on your bicycle and wear reflective clothing. It's the law! Regardless of the season, bicyclist deaths occurred most often between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Bike safely.



Bicycling

- Of the 1,260 bicyclist deaths in 2020, 806 died in motor-vehicle traffic crashes and 454 in other non-traffic incidents, according to National Center for Health Statistics mortality data. Males accounted for 89% of all bicycle deaths, over eight times the fatalities for females.
- Bicycle-related deaths peak in the summer months, starting in June and they remain high through September.
- Ride a bike that fits you. If it's too big, it's harder to control the bike.
- Carry all items in a backpack or strapped to the back of the bike.
- Tuck and tie your shoelaces and pant legs so they don't get caught in your bike chain.
- Plan your route, choose routes with less traffic and slower speeds. Your safest route may be away from traffic altogether, in a bike lane or on a bike path.

Bike safely.



Firearms Safety

In the past five 101 Critical Days of Summer, an average of two Sailors and Marines were involved in Class A-D mishaps involving negligent discharge while off duty.



Example: RMI ID# 788395

Handle Firearms Safely

- Handle every firearm as if loaded.
- Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Alcohol and firearms don't mix: Do not handle firearms while, or after, consuming alcohol.
- Know your firearm.
- Make sure you read the owner's manual and take a class.
- Everyone is a safety officer.
- Intervene when you see someone handling a firearm improperly.
- Handle every firearm with care.
- Identify the target before you fire.

Avoid complacency with privately owned firearms.



Range Safety

- Know and follow all the rules of the shooting range.
- Listen and do what the range master tells you to do.
- Uncase and case your firearm at the shooting bench, never behind the safety line.
- Always keep the barrel pointed down range.
- Always keep the firearm on safe until you intend to shoot.
- Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
- Never shoot at water or hard surfaces.
- Apply range safety procedures even when shooting off-range.

Handle firearms safely on the range.



Driving Safety

In 2022 during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, the Department of the Navy lost 19 Sailors and Marines as a result of vehicle (PMV-4) and motorcycle (PMV-2) mishaps.

Overall, there were 46 PMV-4 and 73 PMV-2 Class A-D mishaps.



PMV-4 example: RMI ID# 844767

PMV-2 example: RMI ID# 540792

Safe Driving

When you're behind the wheel of a car – whether alone or with passengers – driving safely is paramount.

We're more distracted than ever, so it's crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you're on the road. Ensure you and your vehicle are in the right condition before you get behind the wheel. Dangerous driving behaviors like speeding, distraction and impairment are the greatest threats to pedestrians.

- Avoid distracted driving.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Follow the rules of the road and don't speed.*
- Use caution when changing lanes. Cutting in front of someone, changing lanes too fast or not using your signals may cause an accident or upset other drivers.

**Note: Naval Safety Command data indicates excessive speed was a primary factor after midnight for PMV4 and PMV2 mishaps.*

Driving safely should always be your top priority.



Driving Fatality Trends

The Naval Safety Command suspects that driving fatality trends tracked by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles are a tell-tale sign of other regions in the United States.

The Virginia DMV released a report in April 2022 showing the number of fatalities due to people not wearing seat belts, alcohol use and distracted driving is down. Unfortunately, there are surges in driving fatalities involving teenagers (up 55.6%), bicycles (up 100%), motorcycle fatalities (up 17.2%) and speed-related fatalities (up 9.6%).

- Slow down.
- Keep plenty of distance between you and the car or motorcycle in front.
- Share the road.

Trends backed by data.



Drinking and Driving

- Plan your safe ride home before you start the party, choose a non-drinking friend as a designated driver.
- If someone you know has been drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. Take their keys and help them arrange a sober ride home.
- If you drink, do not drive for any reason. Call a taxi, a ride-hailing service or a sober friend.
- If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- Always wear your seat belt — it's your best defense against impaired drivers.
- Every day, 32 people die in drunk-driving crashes – that's one person every 45 minutes. That means you, your family or friends could be innocent victims. (Source: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA))
- All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have by law set a threshold making it illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.
- According to the NHTSA, in 2020, 11,654 people died in alcohol-impaired driving traffic deaths — a 14% increase from 2019. These deaths were all preventable. Alcohol-impaired crash fatalities accounted for 30% of all crash fatalities.

Don't drink and drive.



Drowsy Driving

WHO IS MOST AT RISK:

- Sleep-deprived.
- Driving long distances after working a full shift.
- Driving through the night, the early afternoon or at other times when normally asleep.
- Drinking alcohol or taking medication that increases drowsiness.
- Driving alone for long distances without rest breaks or much change in scenery.
- Drowsing driving occurs most frequently between midnight and 6 a.m., says the NHTSA.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF DROWSY DRIVING:

- Can't remember the last few miles driven.
- Drifting from lane or hitting a rumble strip.
- Yawning repeatedly.
- Difficulty focusing or keeping eyes open.
- Tailgating or missing traffic signs.
- Trouble keeping head up.



Distracted Driving

We're more distracted than ever, so it's crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you're on the road.

At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, according to the NHTSA. Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2020, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Don't allow children to fight or climb around in your car – they should be buckled in their seats at all times. Too much noise can easily distract you from focusing on the road.

You're not multi-tasking, you're distracted.

Thousands die in crashes involving cell phone use.



ATV and ROV Safety

ATVs and ROVs are not toys - get training.

- There are about 650 deaths and 100,000 injuries every year involving ATVs, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Read the owner's manual carefully and ensure the ATV or ROV is in good working condition.
- Always wear an approved helmet.
- Never drive an ATV while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Never drive an ATV on paved roads. Never operate ATVs or ROVs on streets, highways or paved roads, except to cross at safe, designated areas. Understand the terrain BEFORE you ride.
- Familiarize yourself with the local laws.
- Never ride alone, and always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Always supervise young operators. Never carry extra riders.



Remember ATGATT: "All the gear, all the time."



Motorcycle Safety

In 2022 during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, the Department of the Navy lost 8 Sailors and Marines as a result of motorcycle (PMV-2) mishaps.

Overall, there were 73 PMV-2 Class A-D mishaps.

Motorcycle Riding Safety

SEARCH around you for potential hazards.

EVALUATE any possible hazards such as turning hazard.

EXECUTE the proper action to avoid the hazard.

A sound street strategy can help prevent a dangerous situation.

Training Requirements

All Sailors must complete LEVEL I training before operating a motorcycle and then must complete LEVEL II training within 60 days to one year of LEVEL I.

All Sailors must complete either LEVEL II or LEVEL III refresher training every five years.

Take riding courses periodically to improve riding techniques and sharpen your street-riding strategies.

Seeing is the best way to avoid dangerous situations.



Motorcycle Safety Tips

- Complete a formal riding education program, get licensed and take riding courses periodically to improve riding techniques and sharpen your street-riding strategies.
- Obey the speed limit; the faster you go the longer it will take you to stop. Know and follow local traffic laws and rules of the road.
- Don't drink and ride!
- Make sure your bike is fit and ready to ride. Perform all recommended checks and inspections before you hit the road.
- Always wear a helmet with a face shield or protective eye wear. A motorcycle rider not wearing a helmet is five times more likely to sustain a critical head injury.
- Wear leather clothing, boots with nonskid soles and gloves to protect your body from severe injuries in the event of an accident or skid. Attach reflective tape to your clothing to help other drivers to see you.
- Ride defensively. Nearly two-thirds of all motorcycle accidents occur from a driver violating a rider's right of way. Ride with headlights on; stay out of a driver's blind spot; signal well in advance of any change in direction and watch for turning vehicles.
- Fatigue and drowsiness impair your ability to react. Make sure you are well-rested when you hit the road.

Make motorcycle riding safety your top priority.



Pedestrian Safety

In 2022 during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, the Department of the Navy lost 2 Sailors and Marines as a result of pedestrian-related mishaps.

Overall, there were 5 Class A-D mishaps.



Example: RMI ID# 907620

Pedestrian Safety

- The Governors Highway Safety Association reported an estimated 3,441 pedestrians were killed in the first six months of 2021, up from 2,934 (17.3%) over the same period in 2020. Dangerous driving behaviors were a major factor contributing to the trend.
- We urge drivers to look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times, to include those stopped on road shoulders with disabled vehicles.
- See and be seen.
- Use crosswalks and look left, right and then left again before crossing the street.
- Avoid distractions such as texting or watching videos on your phone while walking.
- Avoid walking when impaired by alcohol.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.
- Use all your senses when near an area with moving vehicles.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach to make sure you are seen.
- Walk on sidewalks. If no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.

Pedestrians and drivers share the responsibility.



Home Safety

One person in 10 experienced a medically consulted home injury in 2020, says the National Safety Council.* This number is greater than the total number of medically consulted injuries that occurred in public places, the workplace and motor vehicle crashes combined.

**Note: This is a rise compared to earlier years due to more people at home in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. This statistic does NOT negate our responsibility today to exercise risk management at home.*



Home safety example: RMI ID# 833657
Cooking example: RMI ID# 530375

Slips, Trips and Falls

More than 6.8 million people were treated in emergency rooms for fall-related injuries in 2019, according to the National Safety Council. Wet floors, slippery stairs and scattered toys all create the potential for falls. Make sure to do the following:

- Install handrails on staircases.
- Clear outdoor steps.
- Cover slippery surfaces in bathrooms.
- Install grab rails in shower and bathtub.
- Secure toys, skateboards, bikes and other mobile toys in a safe area where family members and visitors won't trip on them.

When working from a ladder assess risk and use the right equipment.

- Make sure you have level ground and never lean the ladder against an unstable surface.
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open.
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder.
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top.
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder and have someone support the bottom.

Assess risk and use the right equipment.



Grilling Safety

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, over half (57%) of grill fires on residential properties occur in the months of May, June, July and August. Grill fires on residential properties result in an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries and \$37 million in property loss each year.

- Use grill outside only, away from siding, deck rails and overhanging branches.
- Clean grills regularly to remove grease buildup.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid to fire.
- Never use gasoline or any flammable liquids other than starter fluid.
- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks.

Smell the food grilling, not the grill on fire.



Open Fire Safety

Many off duty, outdoor fire burns sustained by Sailors and Marines are caused by someone, either the service member or another person, pouring or shooting a flammable liquid into or near a fire; while burning yard debris or by tripping and falling into the fire. Many incidents result in second-degree burns to the person's face and torso.

- Do not pour, aim or shoot gasoline, alcohol, lighter fluid or any other flammable liquid into or near a fire.
- Keep the area around designated fire pits, campfires or bonfires free of trip hazards.
- Make sure the fire pit is at least three feet away from structures and anything that can burn.
- Pay attention to where you're walking and don't run in the vicinity of an open fire.
- Keep a hose or water source nearby to extinguish the fire quickly if needed.
- Ensure fires are completely out.

Prevent burn injuries.



Gardening Safety

Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, says the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Put away yard tools. Lawn tools, including rakes, saws and lawnmowers, can cause harm if not used and stored properly.
- Stay alert when using power tools and never rush while mowing the lawn or using the weed whacker. Never leave tools lying around. Always keep them locked in a shed or garage where kids can't access them.
- Wear safety gear whenever operating power equipment, including hedge trimmers (safety glasses, hearing protection, non-slip closed-toe shoes or boots, long pants or chaps, long sleeves and work gloves).
- Store poisonous chemicals safely. There were over 2 million poisoning incidents reported to poison control centers nationwide in 2020. Several household items present poisoning hazards, including gardening and home maintenance supplies.
- Wear gloves. Garden gloves will help protect you from blisters, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, fungi and sharp tools.

Gardening may seem safe, but it has its hazards.



Gardening Safety

- Warm up. Just like an athlete does before a game, you should warm up before digging in the garden. Walk around your garden for a few minutes and do some pre-gardening stretches.
- Avoid repetitive motion. Prolonged and repetitive motions, such as digging, raking, trimming, pruning and planting, might irritate your skin, tendons or nerves. To avoid this, switch up your tasks every 15 minutes and take breaks between tasks.
- Banish bending. Kneeling instead of bending will put less strain on your back. For extra comfort, consider wearing kneepads.
- Check your lifting. When lifting objects, especially heavy ones, engage your legs and not your back. When you're carrying heavy objects, hold objects close to your body to reduce strain.
- Look for pests. Check your clothes and body for ticks, which can cause several diseases. Better yet, help prevent tick bites by applying repellent.
- Block the sun and stay hydrated.



Gardening may seem safe, but it has its hazards.

Bladed Tool Safety

The most common concern when using sharp blades or edges is an injury, such as a cut (laceration, puncture) or an amputation. Tools or equipment with sharp blades or edges can include box cutters, utility knives, safety cutters and equipment with blades or moving parts such as hedge trimmers. To prevent cuts:

- Use the right tool for the job it was designed for.
- Make sure the blade is sharp. Dull blades require more force, increasing the chance of injury.
- Carry one tool at a time, tip and blade pointed down at your side.
- Work in a well-lit space so you can see what you are doing.
- Cut on a stable surface.
- Use protective clothing such as cut resistant or mesh gloves, and safety glasses to protect eyes if the blade shatters or breaks.
- Cut away from your body. Make sure no body parts are in the cutting path, or in the path the blade might take if it slips.
- If the tool has a retractable blade, retract it immediately after use, and retract it fully. Similarly, close scissors or snips when not in use.

Be aware of sharp blades and edges.



Bladed Tool Safety

- Follow the manufacturer's instruction manual when you operate, clean, and maintain the equipment.
- Make sure that all guards and safety devices are in place and functioning properly.
- Make sure cutting blades are sharp.
- Keep your hands away from the edges of cutting blades – make sure you can see both your hands (and all your fingers) as well as the cutting blades. Keep your eyes on the item you are cutting and know where your fingers are in relation to the blade.
- Keep your hands away from all moving parts and avoid cleaning or brushing off moving parts such as cutting blades.
- Turn off and unplug the equipment before trying to dislodge items and before disassembling and cleaning.
- Put all guards and safety devices back in place after cleaning.
- If there are moving parts, cover or tie back your hair, tuck in loose or frayed clothing and remove your gloves and jewelry.
- Do not bypass any guards or safety devices.
- Do not operate the equipment if you feel tired or unwell.

Safely use power tools with sharp blades.



Mishap Reporting Reminder



Off-duty mishaps
by uniformed service members
are required reports in the Risk Management
Information (RMI) mishap reporting system:
<https://afsas.safety.af.mil>

Without accurate data, honest analysis cannot be made.

Conclusion



No matter where you are or what activity you are engaging in, make sure you know and understand the inherent environmental risks of that region, especially if you are new to or unfamiliar with the region. Threats vary depending on the locale.

Familiarize yourself with climate, local wildlife and any potential threats or dangerous situations specific to that activity and location. Make sure you have identified avenues for medical treatment (nearby hospitals) and always prepare for the unexpected.

If you get hurt, seek medical attention as soon as possible, even if the injury appears mild. Let a medical professional assess the likelihood of additional symptoms that may not be experienced or develop. For example, a head injury may have unseen symptoms at onset or appear later.

Understand inherent environmental risks.

Sample RMI Mishap Examples

Boating, Class C, RMI ID #181548: Rides jet ski and falls off, hit in head by following jet ski and knocked unconscious. Admitted to hospital emergency room. Suffered a fractured skull.

Swimming, Class C, RMI ID #836439: Dives headfirst into swimming pool during a holiday celebration after consuming alcohol. While in hospital, undergoes emergency surgery for fractured vertebrae and receives treatment for a head laceration.

Alcohol, Class A, RMI ID #839950: Consumes excessive alcohol in a social setting, found unconscious by others who performed CPR. Transported to hospital and pronounced dead upon arrival.

Weather, Hazard, RMI ID #661964: While making popcorn on a stove, lightning strikes residence. The stove was not wired properly, and the pan had a metal handle, both of which caused the lightning to arc. Experiences tingling on left side of body and goes to hospital to ensure no unseen injuries. Undergoes several tests, to include an EKG. Admitted overnight due to abnormal pattern indicated by EKG. EKG ran again following morning and was in normal range. Released with no limitations. *Note: Full details of this mishap are provided due to hazards not falling under safety privilege.*

Heat, Class C, RMI ID #257883: Embarks on a 12.5-mile walk, and experiences nausea and dizziness before completing the last 200 meters. Cold compresses applied and taken by ambulance to local hospital. Admitted and treated for heat exhaustion and dehydration.

Fireworks, Class C, RMI ID #662583: Lights firework at a private residence gathering. While leaning over firework, it fires and strikes face. Spends 10 hours under observation and treatment at emergency room.

Sports, Class C, RMI ID #578302: Attempts to perform a layup while playing basketball, fellow player jumps and lands on subject. Taken to hospital and undergoes emergency knee surgery.

Sample RMI Mishap Examples

PT, Class C, RMI ID #944006: Experiences extreme overexertion of muscles while weightlifting. Goes to medical following day and treated for rhabdomyolysis (breakdown of muscle tissue that releases a damaging protein into the blood).

Firearms, Class C, RMI ID #788395: Removes privately owned pistol from holster and ejects magazine. Without recollection of a round in the chamber, inadvertently squeezes trigger when replacing pistol in holster. Discharged round wounds leg. Admitted to hospital for sutures to close wound and discharged three days later.

PMV-4, Class C, RMI ID #844767: Overcorrects vehicle while making a turn and vehicle rolls over. Suffers concussion.

PMV-2, Class A, RMI ID #540792: Hits curb with motorcycle, ejects into a parked car. Declared deceased on scene.

Pedestrian, Class A, RMI ID #907620: Vehicle struck by another from behind. Driver exits vehicle to review damage, who is struck by another vehicle. Transported to hospital with life-threatening injuries, then passes away from multiple internal injuries.

Home Safety, Class C, RMI ID #292556: While using crutches for a sprained left ankle, slipped on uneven bathroom floor. Admitted to hospital for surgery of fractured right ankle.

Home Safety (Cooking), Class C, RMI ID #530375: Microwaves egg with water and salt. Turns over egg with fork and egg explodes. Boiling water from explosion splashes onto arm and face. Goes to emergency room and treated for third-degree burns to arm and second-degree burns to face.



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