



# DANGER CIRCLE

A danger circle refers to the boundary around a piece of equipment or a specific area where hazardous operations are taking place. Identifying and respecting the danger circle ensures personnel are aware of and avoid these high-risk zones to maintain safety and prevent accidents.

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## PROPER MAINTENANCE OF DANGER CIRCLES IS CRUCIAL FOR DECK SAFETY

A recent Local Area Assessment revealed that several large-deck ships lacked proper weapon danger circles due to new decking or severe deck degradation. This oversight endangers personnel and requires immediate attention to prevent mishaps.

NAVSAFECOM has identified a widespread neglect in maintaining and monitoring weapon danger circles, which compromises safety and increases the risk of mishaps.

NAVSEA OP 4, Ammunition and Explosive Safety Afloat, requires all afloat platforms owned or operated by the U.S. Navy, or those handling and stowing U.S. Navy ordnance, to establish a danger circle around power-driven systems such as gun mounts, turrets, gun/missile directors and missile launchers. Proper adherence to these guidelines is essential to ensure the safety of personnel and prevent mishaps during operations.



## NAVSAFECOM RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Reinforce the importance of danger circles for safety. Danger circles are crucial for protecting personnel. Respecting these boundaries is essential to prevent injury or fatal incidents.
2. Ensure all weapon danger circles are properly marked and maintained. The danger area shall be encircled by a painted red line, 4-inches wide. The line shall be approximately 18 inches from the maximum rotation projection of the armament.
3. Educate personnel on the importance of adhering to danger circle protocols. Promote awareness of the critical role danger circles play in safety. Encourage all personnel to respect these zones and understand the risks associated with neglecting them.
4. Conduct periodic audits of danger circles. Schedule regular evaluations to ensure compliance with NAVSEA OP 4 and address any issues related to the degradation or absence of danger circles on deck.
5. Integrate danger circle awareness into onboarding and ongoing training. Ensure all new personnel are trained on the importance of danger circles during onboarding. Provide updates on danger circle protocols regularly to keep the information current and top of mind.



**AFLOAT SAFETY, NAVAL SAFETY COMMAND** - Keeping our sea warriors informed and ready

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