

# Naval Safety Command

## Risk Awareness: Off Duty Risk Impacts Operational Readiness



Off-duty doesn't mean risk-free. In fact, most fatal mishaps happen during personal time — especially in privately owned vehicles (PMV-2 and PMV-4). As mid-level leaders, you're often the last voice Sailors and Marines hear before they head out for the weekend. Off-duty risk impacts operational readiness and a quick check-in can make a lasting impact.

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As a mid-level leader, your influence doesn't end at the workday — a quick conversation before liberty can change the outcome of someone's weekend. Off-duty risk is real, and reinforcing a culture of accountability, awareness, and care helps protect your people and preserve mission readiness.

### Why It Matters

- Motorcycle and car accidents remain leading causes of Sailor fatalities.
- Common risk factors? Fatigue. Speed. Alcohol. Overconfidence. Distraction.
- Most of these mishaps are preventable — and conversations save lives.

Team Talk Prompt: What are some red flags we've seen before a long weekend — and how can we help spot them earlier?

### Everyday Influence

- **Keep It Brief:** One sentence before liberty call can stick.
- **Start the Ask:** "Got a plan for the weekend?" goes further than you think.
- **Use Real Examples:** Local incidents make it real.



U.S. Marine Corps service members complete Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer

### How You Can Make a Difference

You don't have to lecture or lead a training — small, personal moments matter more.

- Ask simple questions: "What's your plan for getting home?" or "Got a DD?"
- Normalize conversations about safe choices before big weekends, trips, or events.
- Lead by example — your tone sets the standard for what's acceptable.

Team Talk Prompt: What would make someone feel more comfortable speaking up if they needed a ride or a plan?

### Reinforce the Mindset

Off-duty safety is part of your command climate — and how you talk about it matters. You don't need a safety brief to make an impact.

- Use casual moments — like quarters or end-of-day check-ins — to reinforce smart decisions.
- Remind your team: safety isn't about rules, it's about making sure everyone comes back.
- Tie off-duty choices to readiness and accountability — we all have a role in protecting the team.
- Show that caring about safety isn't micromanagement — it's leadership.

Team Talk Prompt: How can we make off-duty safety feel like a shared responsibility, not just a checklist?

**Helpful Tip:** Most off-duty fatalities involve preventable behaviors — like speeding, alcohol use, fatigue, or not wearing protective gear. Use the Risk Management Information (RMI) system to review local and regional mishap trends. Identifying patterns can help guide conversations with your team and shape more relevant safety messaging.



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