

FORT GORDON SAFETY GRAM 16-04

HOLIDAY AND WINTER SAFETY

The upcoming holiday season is a time of joy and celebration with family and friends. As you relax this holiday season, do not let your guard down. Our goal for the holiday season is zero accidents. We can reach this goal only by taking care of each other and not taking unnecessary risks. As you take advantage of this time to visit friends and family or just enjoy the downtime of the long weekends, look out for others and make the right choices for yourself. Discuss your plans with your leader, supervisor and family, and consider their advice. Supervisors should make eye contact with your personnel, reinforcing practices and principles that we know mitigate risk and prevent accidents. Be personally involved in their holiday planning and reinforce your commitment to their welfare.

Alcohol-related incidents at this time of year are traditionally very high. The number of holiday functions increases the opportunities for drinking. Those who plan to drink alcoholic beverages at holiday celebrations must ensure that they have a safe means to get home. Remember, a drunk-driving conviction can end a Soldier's career and a drunk-driving accident can end a life.

For those who are traveling, exercise caution as winter weather and holiday traffic may complicate your plans. Ensure you rest and adequately prepare for your trip. Drive defensively, buckle up, don't drink or speed and avoid distractions.

Take fire prevention seriously this holiday season. Everyone should test his or her smoke alarm and rehearse emergency evacuation plans. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve. To avoid tragedy, ensure that candles and other holiday decorations, such as Christmas tree lights, do not pose a fire hazard.

Particularly at this time of year, remember our Service Members and DoD Civilians deployed in harm's way around the world, and their Families back home. Although a time of joy and celebration, this season brings unique environmental hazards that can be unforgiving to those who are unprepared. So be prepared, stay focused and have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and New Year!



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