



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT DEVENS
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IMDE-ZA

19 June 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: July 4th Safety Message

1. Summer of course is the largest vacation period of the year. The sun is shining and people are out swimming, boating, visiting family and friends far away, playing and having a good time. It's also a time of celebration, recreation, staying awake long hours and driving more miles than your body has the energy for. While summer is a time for fun, it is also a time of danger for the Army community, with notable increases in off-duty fatalities, especially in automobile and motorcycle accidents. This summer the Fort Devens Installation Safety Office (ISO), is promoting the Army's 101 Days of Summer Safety campaign, which began over the Memorial Day weekend, reminding Soldiers, family members, contractors and civilians to think summer safety through the Labor Day weekend.
2. Our most important objective for summer is to protect our Soldiers, Civilians, contractors and their families. The best safety tool we have is being aware of our surroundings and understanding the hazards associated with our activities. Using risk management principles, both on and off duty, and exercising sound judgment has proven to be an effective method of decreasing accidents and injuries.
3. Between FY10 and FY14, over 80% of our military accidental fatalities occurred while participating in off duty activities. During that period, we lost an average of 119 Soldiers to off-duty accidents each year. This July Fourth weekend, we must remain vigilant to prevent tragedies like these from happening again. Remain engaged with your fellow Soldiers, take an active role in helping them make safe decisions and never hesitate to ask for help when you have a concern about your or a buddy's plans. Above all, safety is an individual responsibility, but one that is made easier by working together and looking out for one another.
4. Fireworks can be extremely dangerous and cause serious burns and eye injuries. I encourage everyone to attend public fireworks displays and avoid potential mishaps. Never give fireworks to small children and never throw or point fireworks in the direction of anyone. Know fire extinguisher location and operation, and always keep water handy – you never know when you will need it. Always remember – alcohol and fireworks don't mix.
5. A few minutes of planning can ensure we make lasting memories, a few minutes of inattention is all it takes for an accident to happen. Make safe planning a part of your fun this summer and throughout the year. When you practice safety and inform others about safety, you are saving lives. I appreciate your efforts in contributing to our mission and I look forward to your safe return.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven F. Egan".

STEVEN F. EGAN
LTC, MP
Commanding

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