



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT DEVENS
31 QUEBEC STREET
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS 01434-4424

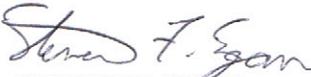
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26 June 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: July 4th Safety Message

1. Our nation will soon celebrate its 238th Birthday. Two hundred thirty-eight years ago, founders of this great Nation signed the Declaration of Independence; one of the most important documents in our Nation's history. We commemorate the Declaration of Independence as our statement of values and beliefs and celebrate its signing on the Fourth of July. This is a time of social activities and celebrations with family and friends, but it is not without an increased risk of accidents. Safety remains one of my #1 priorities and I ask your help in ensuring a safe holiday for employees and family members while you're having fun.
2. Sadly, July 4th is also known as one of the deadliest holiday weekends for traffic accidents. Do not drink and drive. Nothing good can come of it and you are a danger to yourself and others. If you're driving a car or a motorcycle on a long trip over the holiday period, please monitor your level of fatigue. Remember, fatigued driving is equivalent to driving under the influence in terms of your reaction time. If riding a motorcycle, be sure to wear protective equipment. I encourage anyone traveling a long distance to access the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) website and conduct a POV Risk Assessment:
<https://safety.army.mil/>
3. 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 locations and how to operate them. Always keep water handy when around fireworks – you never know when you will need it. Always remember – alcohol and fireworks don't mix.
4. If you decide to take advantage of the New England warm temperatures by engaging in water activities, please swim in supervised areas and obey all rules and posted signs. Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts and stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather. Children and inexperienced swimmers should always use personal flotation devices. For those BBQ enthusiasts, be sure to remember safety when cooking. Avoid fire risks and carbon monoxide poisoning by grilling outdoors. Keep matches, lighters, and starter fluid out of the reach of children and position grills a safe distance away from play areas, foot traffic, and other flammable materials.
5. Everyone can make a difference this holiday period. 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 from the holiday weekend.


STEVEN F. EGAN
LTC, MP
Commanding