



HEAT SAFETY



AUTO SAFETY



WATER SAFETY



GRILL SAFETY



MOTORCYCLE



101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER



2026



# SUMMER SAFETY MENU

2026

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# INTRODUCTION

## MANAGING YOUR RISK

Summer is nearly here so it's time to think about the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety. Historically, it is the largest vacation period of the year for military members, beginning with Memorial Day weekend and ending with Labor Day weekend. The summer months are filled with warm weather, celebrations and longer days. Driving and traveling increase exponentially. The 101 Critical Days of Summer also includes three holidays, which are normally approved for long weekends.

During these longer days, potential lapses in judgment while engaging in summer activities can impact the readiness of Airmen and Guardians. A general lack of situational awareness and complacency are frequent root causes of off-duty mishaps.

The following presentation provides general summer safety information to help you – and your team – maintain an active risk management mindset to ensure an enjoyable and safe summer.

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# LAST SUMMER FATALITIES

ONE DEATH IS ONE TOO MANY

During the Summer season in 2025, the Department of the Air Force lost **16** Airmen and Guardians to preventable mishaps. Water-related activities and motor vehicle, motorcycle and off-road vehicle mishaps were the leading causes.

Operating/Occupant Motor Vehicle **(6)**

Water-Related Activities & Sports **(8)**

Incidental/Routine Activities **(2)**

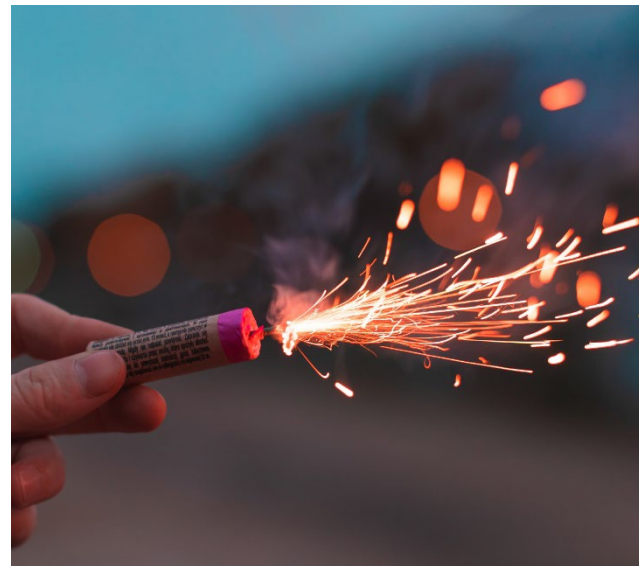
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# RISK MANAGEMENT

The Department of the Air Force's Risk Management program empowers our people to self-assess and self-correct risk factors, from the tarmac to senior leaders, both on and off duty. An active risk management mindset in **defending YOU and those around you from injuries** – whether at work, on the flightline or grilling on your back porch – contributes to readiness .

Every member of our forces must adopt a learning mindset and commit to working collaboratively to educate, inform and hold each other accountable for decisions we make both on and off duty.

The majority of off -duty recreational mishaps are entirely preventable and avoidable , provided service members perform risk assessments and comply with laws, procedures and recommended best practices for a given activity.



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In 2025, there were 8 fatalities due to water-related activities.

## WATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Between fiscal years 2021 -2025 the Department of the Air Force has seen water-related injuries fluctuate from a high of 20 to a low of 8.

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# ADULT SWIMMING SAFETY

## MAINTAIN SELF-AWARENESS OF SWIMMING SKILLS

- Don't swim alone. Always swim with a partner.
- Never swim under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication.
- Know and observe your swimming limitations and capabilities.
- Avoid swift -moving water. If caught in a current, swim with it and angle toward shore or the edge of the current. (Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore that can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.)
- Stay out of the water during thunderstorms and severe weather.
- Don't get too tired, too cold, too far from safety, exposed to too much sun or perform too much strenuous activity.

# ADULT SWIMMING SAFETY

## CONTINUED

- Even if you're a good swimmer, wear a U.S. Coast Guard -approved life jacket. The American Canoe Association estimates that almost 70% of drownings that involve canoes, kayaks and rafts could have been avoided if a personal flotation device (PFD) was worn.
- Label gear with contact info. Labeling gear with your name and two contact numbers could help the U.S. Coast Guard identify your equipment in the case of an emergency.
- The U.S. Coast Guard offers a nation -wide program called Paddle Smart to encourage people to label their equipment. You can get a free, reflective waterproof sticker for your gear at local boating supply stores, canoe clubs and harbor masters.
- Have a way to call for help. Ensure cell phone is charged and in a waterproof case or take a two -way radio with you. For serious adventurers, consider purchasing a personal location beacon, outfitted with a flotation sleeve.



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# POOL CHEMICAL SAFETY

## SAFE USE

- Ask for help if you are not trained for specific tasks.
- Read chemical and entire product labels or Material Safety Data Sheets before each use.
- Dress for safety by wearing appropriate safety equipment (i.e. safety goggles, gloves and mask).
- Handle in a well -ventilated area.
- Open one product container at a time and close it before opening another.
- Minimize dust, fumes and splashes.
- Measure carefully.
- Never mix chlorine products with acid; this could create toxic gases.
- Never mix different pool chemicals (i.e., different types of chlorine products) with each other or with any other substance.
- Only pre -dissolve pool chemicals when directed by product label.
- If product label directs pre -dissolving, add pool chemical to water; never add water to pool chemical because a violent, potentially explosive reaction can occur.



# POOL CHEMICAL SAFETY

## SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

### STORAGE

- Follow product label directions for chemical storage.
- Wear appropriate safety equipment (i.e., safety goggles, masks and gloves).
- Separate incompatible chemicals (for example, acid and chlorine).
- Lock chemicals up to protect people and animals.
- Keep chemicals dry and store in a cool in a well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight.
- Keep chemicals closed in original, labeled container.
- Store liquid chemicals to prevent accidental contact (i.e., by leaking) with chemicals or substances stored below them.

### DISPOSAL

- Follow product label directions for safe disposal; never reuse containers.
- Contact your local or state hazardous materials agency for proper disposal procedures for pool chemicals in unlabeled containers.

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# BOATING SAFETY

## USE COMMON BOATING SENSE

- Follow a pre -departure checklist. Using a pre -departure checklist is a helpful way to check the boat and ensure the proper gear is aboard.
- Be weather -wise. Always check local, route and destination weather and water conditions before departure and ensure it is safe to go out.
- Use common sense. Always operate at a safe speed, especially in crowded areas, stay alert and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn.
- Know the nautical rules of the road. Maintain a proper lookout and respect buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there to ensure your safety and the safety of the boats around you.
- Designate an assistant skipper. Make sure more than one person aboard is familiar with all aspects of the boat's handling, operations and general boating safety, in case the primary operator is incapacitated and someone else needs to get the boat back to shore.





# BOATING SAFETY

## CONTINUED

- Develop a float plan. Let someone else know where you're going and how long you're going to be gone. A float plan can include the following information: name, address, and phone number of trip leader and passengers; boat type and registration information; trip itinerary; and types of communication and signal equipment aboard, such as an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon.
- Make proper use of life jackets. Assign and fit each member of your onboard team with a life jacket before departure.
- Avoid alcohol. Operating a boat while intoxicated is illegal. Nearly half of all boating accidents involve alcohol —designate a sober skipper before leaving the dock.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide. Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat. Educate all passengers about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may accumulate.
- Skip swimming in a marina. Never swim in a marina or in other areas where boats are connected to shore power. Stray power in the water can create an electric shock hazard.
- Stay clear of the engine. Drivers should wear the boat engine's cut-off switch lanyard at all times. Keep watch around the propeller area when people are in the water. Never allow passengers to board or exit your boat from the water when engines are on or idling. Take extra precautions near boats towing skiers or tubers.

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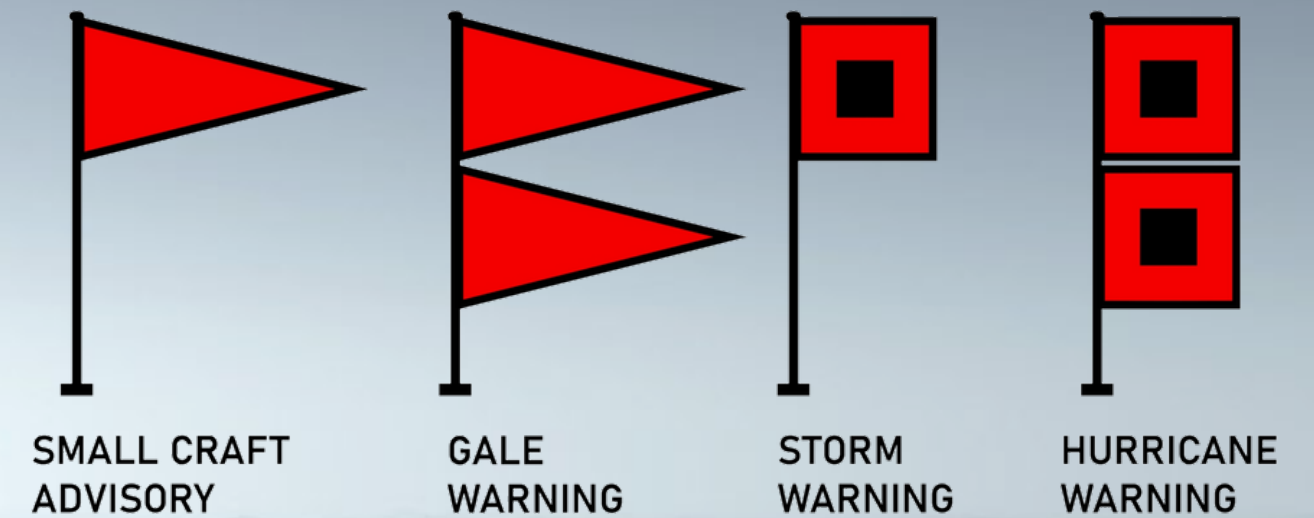
# BOATING SAFETY

## OBSERVE WARNING SIGNS

Maritime warning flag systems will hoist flags to provide boaters a visual indicator to current weather conditions. Below are a few to know:

- One red flag denotes a small craft advisory and two red flags indicate a gale warning.
- One red flag with a black square in the middle indicates a general storm warning.
- The use of two black-squared red flags denotes a hurricane force wind warning or a hurricane warning or tropical storm, depending on where you are located. Some lakes are big enough to create their own weather so this isn't just for ocean-goers.

The National Weather Service generally issues a storm warning for higher winds and wind gusts of 48 knots (89 km/h; 55 mph) to 63 knots (117 km/h; 72 mph) at sea and on many lakes in the United States.





# BOATING SAFETY

## MAN OVERBOARD

Shout – “Man overboard!”

Spot – Locate the person in the water and keep an eye on them at all times. With waves and the boat’s movement, it’s easy to lose track of the victim.

Throw – Toss a flotation device into the water for the victim to latch onto.

Boat Turn Around\* – Turn back toward the victim to pick them up.

Pull or Climb – Return to the victim’s side, toss a lifeline, and tow them in. Or you can pull the victim by the life vest into the boat. If they’re strong enough, they may be able to climb aboard via the swim ladder.

\*Note: Two types of turns are used to quickly return to the point of origin: The elliptical (an oval racetrack-shaped turn) and the Williamson (most appropriate at night or in reduced visibility). We recommend conducting a search for "rescue turns" in your browser to find more information.

# DIVING SAFETY

## OBSERVE WARNING SIGNS

- Always test water depth before diving . If unable to see below water surface, don't dive .
- Never dive into rivers or other moving bodies of water . Keep your arms extended above your head when diving .
- Don't drink . Drinking before a dive entails a number of risks, including nitrogen narcosis, heat loss, impaired judgment, and it affects the reaction time, attention span, and visual tracking, among others .
- Don't smoke . It's advisable to abstain from smoking at least 12 hours before your dive .
- Get medically assessed . Some medical conditions are not compatible with diving . Even a common cold or sinus infection can prevent you from going under .
- Double check your gear . Whether you own your gear or rent it, always do a safety check . Inspect the gear for wear and tear ; look for faulty zippers, cracked buckles, straps or frayed areas that could lead to leaks . Your regulator and tank should also get checked regularly for functional issues .

Disclaimer : The information offered above is designed for educational purposes only . Do not rely solely on this information ; seek professional advice on all matters related to scuba diving safety . If you have any further concerns or questions, consult with your guide, dive master or diving instructor .





# ALCOHOL SAFETY

For some, summer activities may include alcohol, but risky drinking can put a chill on summer fun, says the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. For more information on preventing problems with alcohol this summer, and tips on cutting back, visit: <https://www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov>



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# AFLOAT DRINKING

## NOT WORTH THE RISK

- The U.S. Coast Guard reports that alcohol use contributes to 19% of boating deaths in which the primary cause is known, making alcohol the leading known contributor of fatal boating accidents.
- 70% of water recreation deaths involve alcohol, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

## DID YOU KNOW?

A boat operator is likely to become impaired quicker than a driver.

The penalties for Boating Under the Influence (BUI) can include significant fines, revocation of operator privileges and severe jail terms .

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# MIXING SUN AND ALCOHOL

## BOTH ALCOHOL AND THE SUN CAN CAUSE DEHYDRATION

The sun causes your body to sweat to stay cool, and if those fluids aren't replaced, your body will undergo adverse reactions. You may feel extremely thirsty, dizzy or fatigued.

When people drink, they may become lackadaisical and reckless, which can have dangerous implications when water is involved.

If you are drinking in or near a body of water, be aware that you may lack the dexterity needed to stay afloat, which can increase your risk of drowning (the third leading cause of unintentional injury and death worldwide and fifth in the United States). Sun and heat exposure only amplifies this risk.

Also, the physical exertion of swimming on a hot day paired with alcohol consumption can lead to overheating – a risk factor for heat syncope (fainting), which can have deadly consequences.





# BOATERS' HYPNOSIS

## FATIGUE CAUSED BY HOURS OF BOATING

Boat U.S. Foundation: "Stressors, such as exposure to noise, vibration, sun, glare, wind, and the motion of the water, affect boat operators and passengers, thus drinking while boating is even more dangerous than drinking and driving.

"Research shows that hours of exposure to boating stressors produces a kind of fatigue or 'boater's hypnosis,' which slows reaction time almost as much as if you were legally drunk. Adding alcohol or drugs to boating stress factors intensifies their effects - each drink multiplies your accident risk."

That's why boaters should never drink when operating a boat. Every state has strict drinking and boating laws – you can be arrested on the water. Yes, you can get a BUI punishable using the same criteria as Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

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# HEAT AND SUN SAFETY

In the U.S., an average of 297 heat -related deaths occur each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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# HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

## HEAT EXHAUSTION AND HEAT STROKE CAN ESCALATE QUICKLY

### Heat Related Illnesses:

- Sunburn
- Heat Cramps
- Heat Exhaustion
- Heat Stroke

### Definition:

Heat-related illness, or hyperthermia, is a condition resulting from exposure to extreme heat where the body becomes unable to properly cool, resulting in a rapid rise in body temperature.

The evaporation of sweat is the normal way to remove body heat, but, when the humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly. This, in turn, prevents the body from releasing heat quickly.

Prompt treatment of heat-related illnesses with aggressive fluid replacement and cooling of core body temperature is critical to reducing illness and preventing death.





# HEAT SAFETY TIPS

## SURVIVING THE HOT WEATHER

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- During heat waves, frequently check on people at risk for heat-related death, such as the elderly and disabled or homebound people.
- Never leave children alone in cars and ensure children cannot lock themselves in an enclosed space, such as a car trunk.
- Limit sun exposure during midday hours and in places of potential severe exposure, such as beaches.
- Drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids and replace the body's salts and minerals, which sweating can release. Do not take salt tablets unless under medical supervision.
- Dress infants and children in cool, loose clothing and shade their heads and faces from the sun with hats or an umbrella.
- Provide plenty of fresh water for pets and leave the water in a shady area.

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# HEAT SAFETY TIPS

## CONTINUED

### TREATMENT:

- Reduce body temperature by cooling the body.
- Remove unnecessary clothing.
- Apply water, cool air, wet sheets, or ice on the neck, groin and armpits to accelerate cooling.
- Seek professional medical attention immediately!

### PREVENTION:

- Stop physical activity and move to a cool place.
- Drink water or drinks with electrolytes.
- Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity.

### GET MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- Cramps last longer than one hour.
- You're on a low -sodium diet.
- You have heart problems .





# SUN SAFETY

## SUN'S UV RAYS CAN DAMAGE SKIN IN 15 MINUTES

Use broad spectrum sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) 30 or higher before you go outside, even on slightly cloudy or cool days. Don't forget to put a thick layer on all parts of exposed skin. Get help for hard-to-reach places like your back. And remember, sunscreen works best when combined with other options to prevent UV damage.

Reapplication. Sunscreen wears off. Put it on again if you stay out in the sun for more than two hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.

Expiration date. Check the sunscreen's expiration date. Sunscreen without an expiration date has a shelf life of no more than three years, but its shelf life is shorter if it is exposed to high temperatures.

Cosmetics. Some makeup and lip balms contain some of the same sun-protective ingredients used in sunscreens. If they do not have SPF 30 or higher, be sure to use other forms of protection as well, such as sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat.

# SUN SAFETY

## CONTINUED

### Shade, Clothing, Hat and Sunglasses

You can reduce your risk of skin damage and skin cancer by seeking shade under an umbrella, tree, or other shelter before you need relief from the sun.

When possible, long-sleeved shirts and long pants and skirts can provide protection from UV rays. For the most protection, wear a hat with a brim all the way around that shades your face, ears, and the back of your neck. A tightly woven fabric, such as canvas, works best to protect your skin from UV rays. Avoid straw hats with holes that let sunlight through. A darker hat may offer more UV protection.

Sunglasses protect your eyes from UV rays and reduce the risk of cataracts. They also protect the delicate skin around your eyes from sun exposure.



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## FIREWORKS SAFETY

The National Safety Council recommends enjoying fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals and not using any fireworks at home. They may be legal, but they are not safe.

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# GENERAL FIREWORKS RULES

## (IF FIREWORKS ARE LEGAL WHERE YOU RESIDE)

- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands.
- Never light them indoors.
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never ignite devices in a container.
- Do not try to re -light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep bucket of water nearby to extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
- Never use illegal fireworks.

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# SPORTS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

In 2024, sports and recreation injuries increased by 17%, the top three activities and equipment with most injuries were:

- 1 - Exercise and exercise equipment
- 2 - Bicycles and accessories
- 3 - Basketball

(Source: National Safety Council)

<https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home> -and -community/safety -topics/sports -and -recreational -injuries/

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# SPORTS INJURY PREVENTION

## ENSURE YOU ARE PHYSICALLY ABLE

- Warm up and stretch before playing any sport.
- Ensure you are physically able to play – see your physician for periodic physicals. Don't participate in a sporting event without a physician's release if you've had a sports injury that required medical attention.
- Make sure to wear all proper protective equipment required for the sport: Shoulder pads, elbow pads, knee pads and helmet for football; batting helmets with faceguards; catcher's face mask, throat guard, chest protector and shin guards for baseball.
- Be sure sports protective equipment is in good condition, fits appropriately and is worn correctly all the time. Avoid missing or broken buckles or compressed or worn padding. Poorly fitting equipment may be uncomfortable and may not offer the best protection.





# CARDIO ACTIVITIES

## WALKING, JOGGING, AND EXERCISING SAFELY FOR HEALTH

Follow our tips to ensure that your jogs are rewarding and safe:

- Execute warm up exercise before walking, jogging, or running.
- Choose good shoes for walking, jogging, or running.
- Drink plenty of fluids (water or drinks with electrolytes) before, during and after.
- Watch for signs of heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- Allow a cool down period.
- Walk, jog, or run on sidewalks facing traffic. Exercise caution when walking, jogging, or running near roadways.
- Wear bright-colored clothing to improve your visibility.

# CARDIO ACTIVITIES

## WALKING, JOGGING, AND EXERCISING SAFELY FOR SECURITY

- Jog in a familiar area but vary your routes. Changing the route you take can prevent someone from noting your schedule or movements.
- Jog in open spaces, away from bushes or alcoves where someone could hide.
- Carry your ID. If you suspect you're being followed, call the police immediately and find a safe place to wait for them to arrive.
- Carry a whistle or shrill alarm to summon help if needed.
- Take a key with you. Don't leave your house unlocked.
- Do not run with your phone or other valuables in sight.
- Avoid jogging in secluded areas or at night. If you do run after dark, do so in well-lit and populated areas and consider buying reflective running gear or a runner's light so you're highly visible to traffic.
- Recruit a friend. Runners in pairs or groups are less appealing targets.



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# CARDIO ACTIVITIES

## BIKING SAFELY

When a crash occurs between a vehicle and a bike, it's the cyclist who is most likely to be injured. A large percentage of crashes can be avoided if motorists and cyclists follow the rules of the road and watch out for each other.

- Wear equipment to protect you and make you more visible to others, like an approved bike helmet, bright clothing (during the day), reflective gear, and a white front light and red rear light and reflectors on your bike (at night or when visibility is poor).
- Remember to use arm and hand signals.
- Ride with traffic, not against it.
- Avoid riding at night, if possible. If you must ride at night, install front and rear lights on your bicycle and wear reflective clothing. It's the law! Regardless of the season, bicyclist deaths occurred most often between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

# CARDIO ACTIVITIES

## BIKING SAFELY CONTINUED

- Of the 1,392 bicyclist deaths in 2024, the National Center for Health Statistics mortality data shows a 1% increase in bicycle transportation incidents. Males accounted for 88% of all bicycle deaths, over seven times the fatalities for females.
- Bicycle -related deaths peak in the summer months, starting in June, and they remain high through October. In 2024, the most deaths occurred in August (116) and the fewest in January (74).  
<https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/safety-topics/bicycle-deaths/>
- Ride a bike that fits you. If it's too big, it's harder to control the bike.
- Carry all items in a backpack or strapped to the back of the bike.
- Tuck and tie your shoelaces and pant legs so they don't get caught in your bike chain.
- Plan your route, choose routes with less traffic and slower speeds. Your safest route may be away from traffic altogether, in a bike lane or on a bike path.



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# FIREARMS SAFETY

In 2024, gun -related deaths in the U.S. decreased 4.9% compared to 2023.  
(Source: National Safety Council)



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# HANDLE FIREARMS SAFELY

## AVOID COMPLACENCY WITH PRIVATELY-OWNED FIREARMS

- Handle every firearm as if loaded.
- Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Alcohol and firearms don't mix: Do not handle firearms while or after consuming alcohol.
- Know your firearm.
- Make sure you read the owner's manual and take a class.
- Everyone is a safety officer.
- Intervene when you see someone handling a firearm improperly.
- Handle every firearm with care.
- Identify the target before you fire.

# HANDLE FIREARMS SAFELY

## RANGE SAFETY

- Know and follow all the rules of the Shooting Range.
- Listen and do what the Range Master tells you to do.
- Uncase and case your firearm at the shooting bench, never behind the safety line.
- Always keep the barrel pointed down range.
- Always keep the firearm on safe until you intend to shoot.
- Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
- Never shoot at water or hard surfaces.
- Apply Range Safety procedures even when shooting off -range.





## DRIVING SAFETY



In 2025, during the Summer season, the Department of the Air Force lost **6** Airmen and Guardians as a result of PMV-4 and PMV-2 mishaps.

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# SAFE DRIVING

## DRIVING SAFELY SHOULD ALWAYS BE YOUR TOP PRIORITY

When you're behind the wheel of a car – whether alone or with passengers – driving safely is paramount.

We're more distracted than ever, so it's crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you're on the road. Ensure you and your vehicle are in the right condition before you get behind the wheel. Dangerous driving behaviors like speeding, distraction and impairment are the greatest threats to pedestrians.

- Don't drink and drive.\*
- Avoid distracted driving.
- Follow the rules of the road and don't speed.\*
- Use caution when changing lanes. Cutting in front of someone, changing lanes too fast or not using your signals may cause an accident or upset other drivers.

\*Note: The Department of the Air Force data indicates that excessive speed, distraction and alcohol were primary factors for all PMV-4 and PMV-2 mishaps.

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# DRIVING FATALITIES

## NATIONAL DATA

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration projects an estimated 36,640 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes last year, a 6.7% decrease compared to 39,254 fatalities in 2024.

NHTSA's analysis shows the main behaviors involved in the motor vehicle crashes were: impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and failure to wear a seat belt.

**Slow down.**

**Keep plenty of distance between you and the car in front.**

**Never drink and drive.**

**Always wear a seat belt.**

**Don't drive distracted, stay focused on driving.**



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# DRINKING AND DRIVING

## IF YOU ARE DRINKING, DO NOT DRIVE

- Plan your safe ride home before you start the party. Choose a non -drinking friend as a designated driver.
- If someone you know has been drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. Take their keys and help them arrange a sober ride home.
- If you drink, do not drive for any reason. Call a taxi, a ride -hailing service or a sober friend.
- If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- Always wear your seat belt — it's your best defense against impaired drivers.
- Every day, 34 people die in drunk -driving crashes — that's one person every 42 minutes. That means you, your family or friends could be innocent victims. (Source: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA))
- All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have by law set a threshold making it illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.
- According to the latest National Safety Council data, 12,429 people died in alcohol -impaired crashes in 2023. Alcohol -impaired crash fatalities accounted for 30% of all crash fatalities in the U.S.

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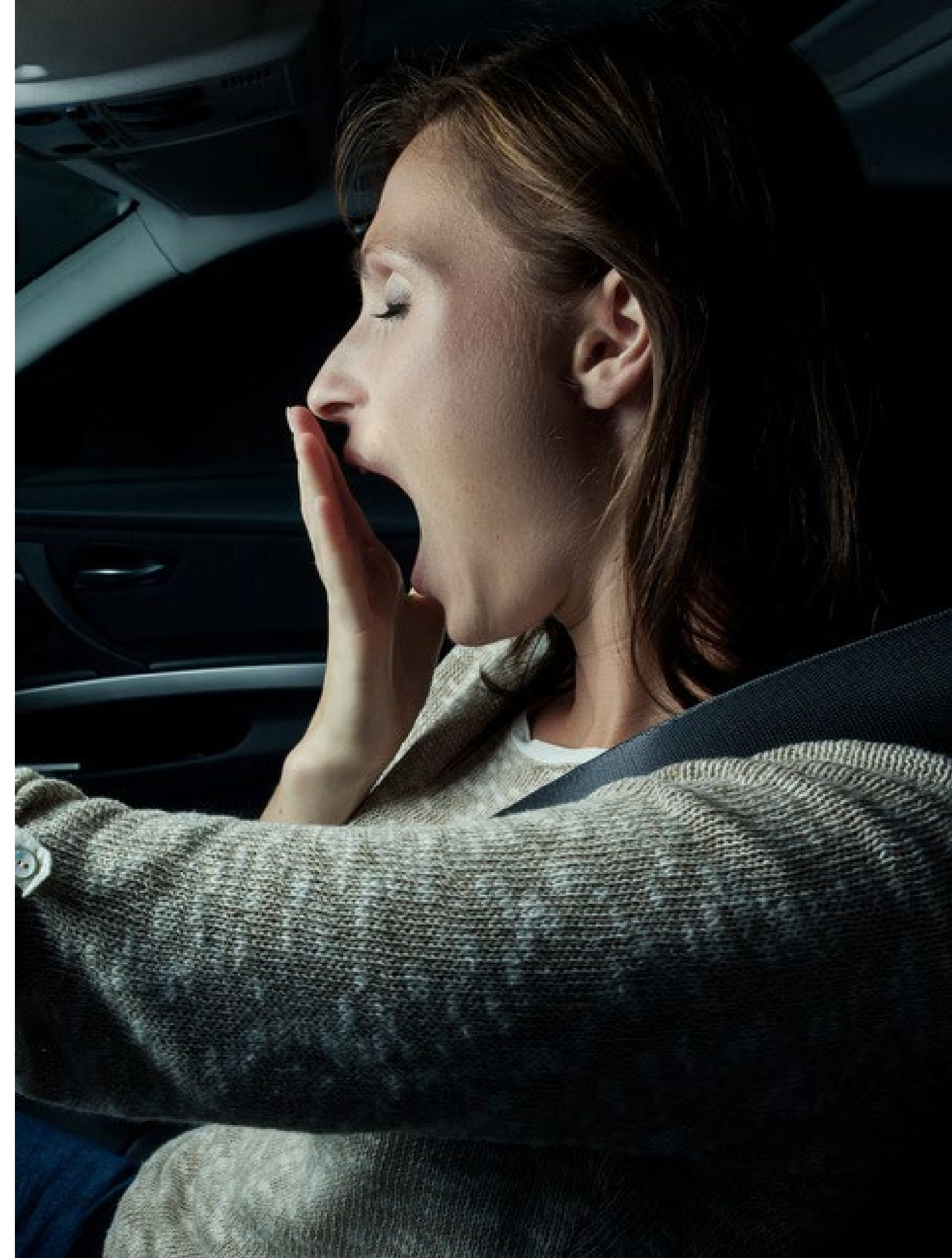
# DROWSY DRIVING

## WHO IS MOST AT RISK

- Sleep-deprived.
- Driving long distances after working a full shift.
- Driving through the night, the early afternoon or at other times when normally asleep.
- Drinking alcohol or taking medication that increases drowsiness.
- Driving alone for long distances without rest breaks or much change in scenery.
- Drowsing driving occurs most frequently between midnight and 6 a.m., says NHTSA.

## KNOW THE SIGNS OF DROWSY DRIVING:

- Can't remember the last few miles driven.
- Drifting from lane or hitting a rumble strip.
- Yawning repeatedly.
- Difficulty focusing or keeping eyes open.
- Tailgating or missing traffic signs.
- Trouble keeping head up.





# DISTRACTED DRIVING

## THOUSANDS DIE IN CRASHES INVOLVING CELL PHONE USE

We're more distracted than ever, so it's crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you're on the road.

At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, according to NHTSA. Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2024, the latest data from NHTSA, 3,208 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers and 315,167 people were injured by distracted drivers.

Don't allow children to fight or climb around in your car – they should be buckled in their seats at all times. Too much noise can easily distract you from focusing on the road.

You're not multi-tasking, you're distracted.

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# ATV AND UTV SAFETY

## ATVs AND UTVs ARE NOT TOYS -- GET TRAINING

There are about 300 to 400 deaths and 100,000 injuries every year involving ATVs, according to [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).

- Read the owner's manual carefully and ensure the ATV or UTV is in good working condition.
- Always wear an approved helmet.
- Never drive an ATV while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Never drive an ATV on paved roads. Never operate ATVs or UTVs on streets, highways or paved roads, except to cross at safe, designated areas. Understand the terrain BEFORE you ride.
- Familiarize yourself with the local laws.
- Never ride alone and always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Always supervise young operators. Never carry more than the manufacturer's recommended amount of passengers.



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# ELECTRIC SCOOTERS/E-BIKE SAFETY

## E-Scooters, E-Bikes and motorized vehicles - GET TRAINING

According to the [National Transportation Safety Board](#) safety research report conducted 2022-2023 found that at least 119 fatalities involving electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters) occurred in the United States between 2017 – 2021 and calls for improved data collection to better understand and address these risks.

- Understand the e-bike/e-scooter class, speed and motor features and read the manufacturer manual for safety requirements.
- Wear a certified helmet at all times while riding.
- Use lights and reflective gear when riding at night.
- Avoid distractions such as phones or headphones.
- Follow traffic laws and ride defensively.

Remember ATGATT: “All the Gear, all the Time!”

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# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY



In fiscal year 2025, during the 101 CDS the Department of the Air Force lost **2** Airmen as a result of PMV-2 mishaps.

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# MOTORCYCLE RIDING SAFETY

“SEE”ING IS THE BEST WAY TO AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS  
SEARCH around you for potential hazards.

EVALUATE any possible hazards such as a turning hazard.

EXECUTE the proper action to avoid the hazard.  
A sound street strategy can help prevent a dangerous situation.

## Training Requirements

All Airmen and Guardians must have a permit or endorsement to complete LEVEL I training. Complete a DoD approved course within 6 months not to exceed one year following LEVEL I.

All Airmen and Guardians must complete a DoD approved refresher training every five years.

Take periodic riding courses to improve riding techniques and practice every time you ride to sharpen your street-riding strategies.

RIGHT TRAINING ... RIGHT TIME ... RIGHT BIKE

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# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

## MAKE MOTORCYCLE RIDING SAFETY YOUR TOP PRIORITY

- Complete a formal riding education program, get licensed and take riding courses periodically to improve riding techniques and sharpen your street -riding strategies.
- **Obey the speed limit** . The faster you go the longer it will take you to stop. Know and follow local traffic laws and rules of the road.
- Don't drink and ride! Don't ride high!
- Make sure your bike is fit and ready to ride. Perform all recommended checks and inspections before you hit the road.
- Always wear a helmet with a face shield or protective eye wear. A motorcycle rider not wearing a helmet is five times more likely to sustain a critical head injury.
- Wear leather clothing, boots with nonskid soles and gloves to protect your body from severe injuries in the event of an accident or skid. Attach reflective tape to your clothing to help other drivers see you.
- Ride defensively. Nearly two -thirds of all motorcycle accidents occur from a driver violating a rider's right of way. Ride with headlights on; stay out of a driver's blind spot; signal well in advance of any change in direction and watch for turning vehicles.
- Fatigue and drowsiness impair your ability to react. Make sure you are well -rested when you hit the road.



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# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

During the past five summer seasons, the Department of the Air Force had **3** pedestrian-related fatalities.



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# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

## PEDESTRIANS AND DRIVERS SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY

The Governors Highway Safety Association reported that an estimated 3,024 pedestrians were struck and killed in the first six months of 2025, marking an 11% decline from the same period in 2024. Work is still needed and dangerous driving behaviors were a major factor in the deaths.

We urge drivers to look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times, to include those stopped on road shoulders with disabled vehicles.

- See and be seen.
- Use crosswalks and look left, right and then left again before crossing the street.
- Avoid distractions such as texting or watching videos on your phone while walking.
- Avoid walking when impaired by alcohol.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.
- Use all your senses when near an area with moving vehicles.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach to make sure you are seen.
- Walk on sidewalks. If no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and far from traffic as possible.

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# HOME SAFETY

In 2024, according to the National Safety Council, 107,800 people died from preventable deaths in the home.

<https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/deaths-in-the-home/introduction/>



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# SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

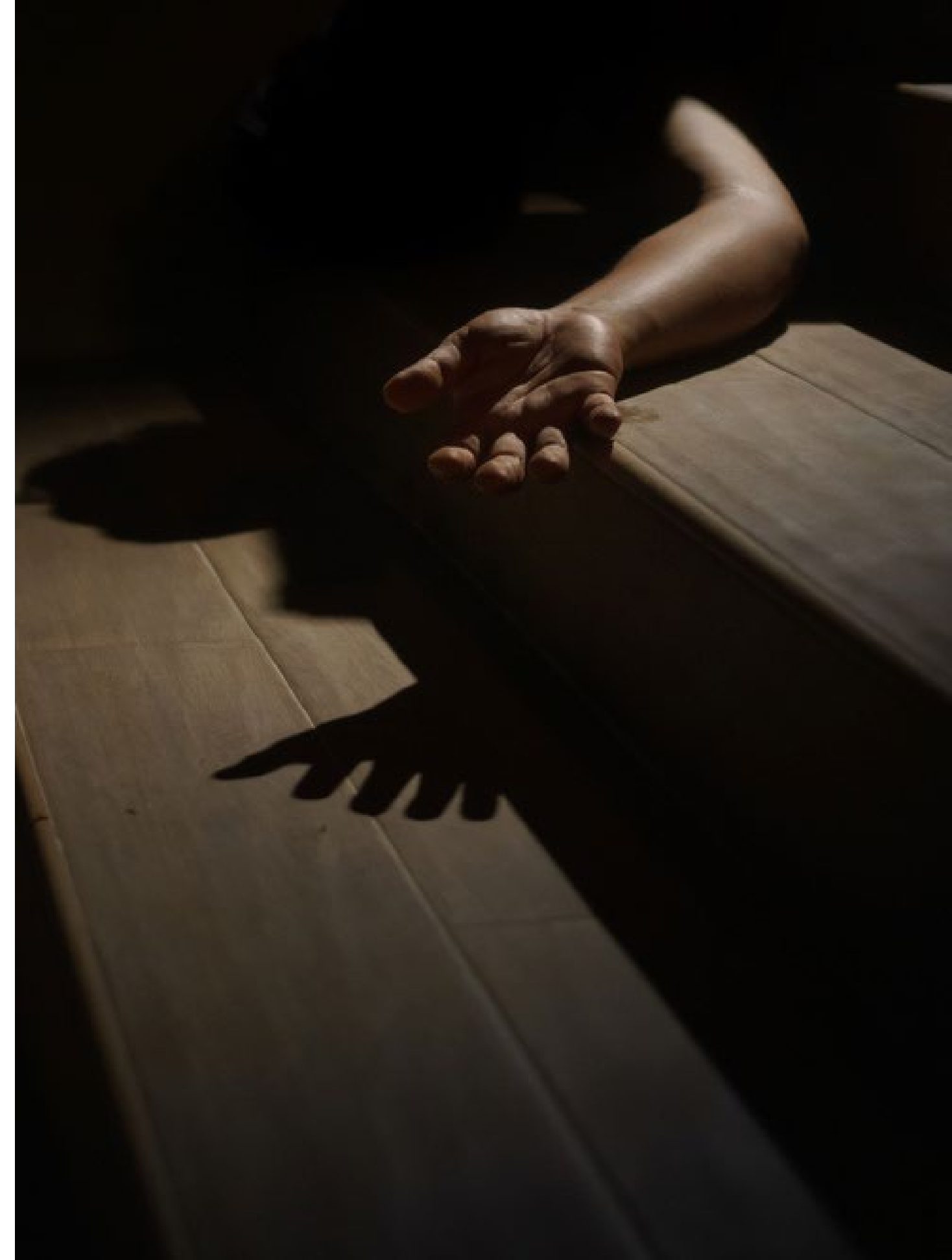
## ASSESS RISK AND USE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

More than 8.5 million people were treated in emergency rooms for fall -related injuries in 2022, according to the National Safety Council. Wet floors, slippery stairs and scattered toys all create the potential for falls.

- Stabilize staircases.
- Clear outdoor steps.
- Cover slippery surfaces in bathrooms.
- Install supports for showers and bathtubs.
- Secure toys, skateboards, bikes and other mobile toys in a safe area where family members and visitors won't trip on them.

When working from a ladder assess risk and use the right equipment.

- Make sure you have level ground and never lean it against an unstable surface.
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open.
- Always keep 3 points of contact on the ladder -- two hands and one foot; or two feet and one hand.
- Wear slip -resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top.
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder and have someone support the bottom.





# GRILLING SAFETY

## SMELL THE FOOD GRILLING, NOT THE GRILL ON FIRE

According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), July (15%) is the peak month for grill fires including both structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by June (14%), May (13%), and August (12%). Grill fires on residential properties result in an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries and \$37 million in property loss each year.

- Use grill outside only, away from siding, deck rails and overhanging branches.
- Clean grills regularly to remove grease buildup.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid to fire.
- Never use gasoline or any flammable liquids other than starter fluid.
- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill.

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# OPEN FIRE SAFETY

## PREVENT BURN INJURIES

Many off-duty, outdoor fire burns sustained by Airmen and Guardians are caused by someone, either the service member or another person, pouring or shooting a flammable liquid into or near a fire; while burning yard debris; or by tripping and falling into the fire. Many incidents result in second -degree burns to the person's face and torso.

- Do not pour, aim or shoot gasoline, alcohol, lighter fluid or any other flammable liquid into or near a fire.
- Keep the area around designated fire pits, campfires or bonfires free of trip hazards.
- Make sure fire pit is at least three feet away from structures and anything that could burn.
- Pay attention to where you're walking and don't run in the vicinity of an open fire.
- Keep a hose or water source nearby to extinguish the fire quickly if needed.
- Put out fires before you leave.





# GARDENING SAFETY

## GARDENING MAY SEEM SAFE, BUT HAS ITS HAZARDS

Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says.

- Put away yard tools. Lawn tools, including rakes, saws and lawnmowers can cause harm if not used and stored properly.
- Stay alert when using power tools and never rush while mowing the lawn or using the weed whacker. Never leave tools lying around. Always keep them locked in a shed or garage where kids can't access them.
- Wear safety gear whenever operating power equipment, including hedge trimmers (safety glasses, hearing protection, non-slip closed-toe shoes or boots, long pants or chaps, long sleeves and work gloves).
- Store poisonous chemicals safely. In 2024, there were over 2.1 million poisoning incidents reported to poison control centers nationwide. Several household items present poisoning hazards, including gardening and home maintenance supplies.
- Wear gloves. Garden gloves will help protect you from blisters, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, fungi, and sharp tools.

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# GARDENING SAFETY

## CONTINUED

- Warm up. Just like an athlete does before a game, you should warm up before digging in the garden. Walk around your garden for a few minutes and do some pre-gardening stretches.
- Avoid repetitive motion. Prolonged and repetitive motions, such as digging, raking, trimming, pruning and planting, might irritate your skin, tendons or nerves. To avoid this, switch up your tasks every 15 minutes and take breaks between tasks.
- Banish bending. Kneeling instead of bending will put less strain on your back. For extra comfort, consider wearing kneepads.
- Check your lifting. When lifting objects, especially heavy ones, engage your legs and not your back. When you're carrying heavy objects, hold objects close to your body to reduce strain.
- Look for pests. Check your clothes and body for ticks, which can cause several diseases. Better yet, help prevent tick bites by applying repellent.
- Block the sun and stay hydrated.



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# BLADED TOOL SAFETY

## SHARP BLADES AND EDGES ARE POTENTIAL INJURIES

The most common concern when using sharp blades or edges is an injury, such as a cut (laceration, puncture) or an amputation. Tools or equipment with sharp blades or edges can include box cutters, utility knives, safety cutters and equipment with blades or moving parts such as hedge trimmers. To prevent cuts:

- Use the right tool for the job it was designed for.
- Make sure the blade is sharp. Dull blades require more force, increasing the chance of injury.
- Carry one tool at a time with the tip and blade pointed down at your side.
- Work in a well-lit space so you can see what you are doing.
- Cut on a stable surface.
- Use protective clothing such as cut resistant or mesh gloves, and safety glasses to protect eyes if the blade shatters or breaks.
- Cut away from your body. Make sure no body parts are in the cutting path, or in the path the blade might take if it slips.
- If the tool has a retractable blade, retract it immediately after use, and retract it fully. Similarly, close scissors or snips when not in use.

# BLADED TOOL SAFETY

## SAFE USE OF POWER TOOLS WITH SHARP BLADES

- Follow the manufacturer's instruction manual when you operate, clean, and maintain the equipment.
- Make sure that all guards and safety devices are in place and functioning properly.
- Make sure cutting blades are sharp.
- Keep your hands away from the edges of cutting blades – make sure you can see both your hands (and all your fingers) as well as the cutting blades. Keep your eyes on the item you are cutting and know where your fingers are in relation to the blade.
- Keep your hands away from all moving parts and avoid cleaning or brushing off moving parts such as cutting blades.
- Turn off and unplug the equipment before trying to dislodge items and before disassembling and cleaning.
- Put all guards and safety devices back in place after cleaning.
- If there are moving parts, cover or tie back your hair, tuck in loose or frayed clothing and remove your gloves and jewelry.
- Do not bypass any guards or safety devices.
- Do not operate the equipment if you feel tired or unwell.



# MISHAP REPORTING REMINDER



Off-duty mishaps  
by uniformed service members  
are required reports in the  
AFSAS mishap reporting system:  
<https://afsas.safety.af.mil>

Without accurate data, honest analysis cannot be made.

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# CONCLUSION

## UNDERSTAND INHERENT ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

No matter where you are or what activity you're engaging in, make sure you know and understand the inherent environmental risks of that region, especially if you're new to or unfamiliar with the region. Threats vary depending on the locale.

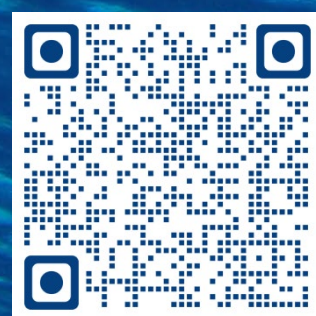
Familiarize yourself with climate, local wildlife and any potential threats or dangerous situations specific to that activity and location. Make sure you've identified avenues for medical treatment (nearby hospitals) and always prepare for the unexpected.

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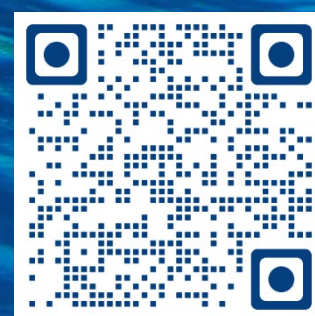


[www.safety.af.mil](http://www.safety.af.mil)

Scan codes to follow us on social media.



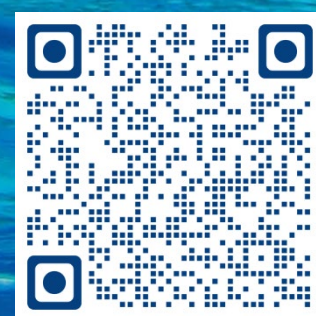
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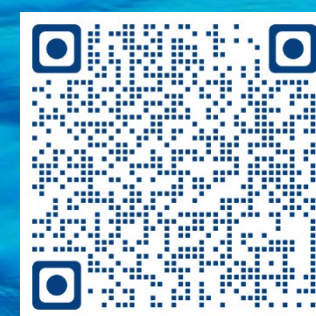
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