



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE  
UNIT 29351  
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AEAGX-A

27 September 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Leaders, Soldiers, Civilian Employees, and Family Members in the Army in Europe

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Fall and Winter Accident-Avoidance Guidance

This memorandum expires 1 March 2011.

1. This memorandum provides fall and winter accident-avoidance guidance for leaders, Soldiers, civilian employees, and Family members. This guidance is based on historical accident data and anticipated road and weather conditions for the period beginning 1 October 2010 and ending 28 February 2011.
2. Driving in Europe is challenging, even under the best of circumstances. Fall and winter in Europe can bring abrupt changes in weather resulting in treacherous road conditions, sometimes within small geographic areas. Sudden patches of fog may stop fast-moving traffic just beyond a driver's line of sight. Drivers should reduce their speed when it is raining, sleeting, or snowing, or when the road is wet or covered with ice or snow. Drivers should also keep in mind that when the ground is frozen, a small amount of precipitation can result in the formation of black ice. This often catches drivers completely unaware and unprepared to control their vehicles.
3. When planning unit missions, leaders must consider weather and road conditions and allow for increased travel times. Leaders must also ensure that drivers are alert and experienced and that Army motor vehicles (AMVs) and privately owned vehicles (POVs) have all required winter safety equipment. In addition, leaders at the appropriate level must make inclement-weather announcements in a timely manner.
4. Other effective controls that leaders can use to help ensure continued safety during the winter months include ensuring their personnel are aware of rapidly changing environmental conditions, having them complete comprehensive drivers training, and ensuring they are familiar with and use winter safety equipment.
5. Soldiers, civilian employees, and Family members can help ensure their personal safety and the safety of their loved ones by using common sense and taking measures to protect themselves from injury during the fall and winter months. Two areas of particular concern at this time of year are pedestrian safety and home fires.
  - a. Darkness decreases the ability of drivers to see obstacles on the road. Therefore, pedestrians and bicyclists should not assume that drivers can see them or will be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them. To increase their visibility to drivers during periods of darkness and inclement weather, pedestrians and bicyclists should wear light-colored reflective clothing and must not use headphones or other listening devices. Pedestrians should carry flashlights, and bicyclists must wear helmets and ensure their bicycles are equipped with reflectors and functioning front and rear lights. The use of cleared sidewalks and driveways when available also reduces the chance of personal injury.

*This memorandum is available at <https://aepubs.army.mil/>.*

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b. Unattended cooking, candles, and fireplaces, in addition to overheated holiday decorations, are common causes of fire. Vigilance is required on our part to prevent home fires and possible tragedy.

6. Leaders must ensure their subordinates are aware of the following forecasted fatalities and injuries in order to prevent the forecast from becoming a reality.

a. Forecasted fall and winter fatalities are as follows:

(1) The most likely cause of death will be a POV accident. This accident will occur between 0200 and 0600. It will involve a male driver in the grade of specialist who is less than 25 years old.

(2) The most likely non-POV fatality will involve a Soldier being hit by a car or train while walking. This fatality will occur late in the evening while the Soldier is leaving a bar or a party. The Soldier will be in the grade of specialist and less than 25 years old.

b. The most frequent injuries that will remove Soldiers from our formations will occur while the Soldier is on duty. These include the following:

(1) Injuries resulting from slips, trips, and falls that occur while walking to or from a POV or AMV. Wet leaves, snow, and ice must be removed from walking surfaces both around the worksite and home to prevent these often severe injuries.

(2) Injuries to the leg that occur while running or playing basketball.

(3) Hand injuries that occur because of improper use of or failure to use safety equipment. These include cold injuries and lacerations.

7. Effective risk management involves “drilling down” into your specific accident statistics. Fall and winter campaign tools to address unique unit needs are available on the United States Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Fall and Winter Campaign 2010 webpage at <https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/campaignsinitiatives/fallandwintersafetycampaign2010/tabid/1981/default.aspx>.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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