

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING

STATE OF MINNESOTA

20 12TH STREET WEST

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2004

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12 November 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Holiday Season Safety Message

1. The holiday season from Thanksgiving through New Years is a time filled with joy and happiness. It's a time of celebration of accomplishments and looking forward to the brightness of a new year. It's a time to gather with family and friends and celebrate the blessings we share as Americans. Unfortunately, the holiday season can also be a time of pain and sorrow for those who fail to follow the fundamental elements of personal risk management. As professionals, we must continue to exercise sound judgment and take prudent action to avoid the senseless loss of life.

2. Leaders at all levels must recognize and assess the hazards associated with the holiday period and take appropriate measures to reduce risk. The main hazards we face are an increase in alcohol consumption, and winter weather accidents and injuries. As you prepare to celebrate the holidays, we ask each of you take time to carefully plan your activities and remain mindful of the hazards that routinely accompany holiday celebrations. Recognize the special hazards associated with the changing weather and take the precautions necessary to protect yourself and your family.

3. Situational awareness is the key to safety, whether in a car, on the slopes, or at home. Be attuned to your surroundings. When conditions change, new hazards are introduced. A new assessment of the risks should be conducted, either formally or informally, and modified risk management strategy applied. The Combat Readiness Center provides accident prevention information and tools to assist in safety efforts. Visit <https://safety.army.mil>

4. Let's all take care of one another. Our people are our most precious asset. The senseless loss of a member of the Minnesota National Guard family is unthinkable. Put "safety first" in your holiday plans and make this a safe and accident-free holiday season for all Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and family members.

5. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry W. Shellito".

LARRY W. SHELLITO
Major General, MNARNG
The Adjutant General

Distribution:
"A" Army
"F" Air