



RHUMB LINES

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Summer Safety – Labor Day Weekend Update

“As we prepare for the upcoming Labor Day weekend, it’s time to take a hard look at the job we’ve done managing risk so far this summer. While Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer, there are still plenty of warm days ahead, which means plenty of time for off-duty recreational activities. Most of us do a great job managing risk both on and off the job and I ask you to keep up the good work as you enjoy some extra time off during the holiday weekend.”

– Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, Commander, Naval Safety Center

Current Summer Safety Trends

- As of August 18, 18 Sailors have died in off-duty recreation and personal motor vehicle mishaps since Memorial Day. While this is still way too many preventable losses, it’s a significant decrease over this time frame last year when we lost 26 Sailors.
- At the current rate, this year the Navy is on track to have the fewest personal motor vehicle and off-duty recreation mishap fatalities since we began keeping these records in 1980.

Labor Day Safety [Statistics](#)

- Last Labor Day weekend, there were 38 reportable mishaps in the Navy and Marine Corps. One proved fatal when a Navy officer was killed in a motorcycle crash.
- Since 2004, we have lost six Sailors over the Labor Day weekend holidays. Many more have been injured – some critically.

Labor Day Weekend Safety Tips

- Don’t overdo it just because summer is nearing its end. Attempting to cram too many activities or too many risk factors into one weekend is a recipe for disaster.
- If you will be on or near the water this weekend, make sure you know how to swim. Keep a close eye on [children](#) because it only takes a few minutes and as little as an inch of water for a child to drown.
- Never mix [alcohol](#) and water sports. Alcohol diminishes your vision, depth perception and coordination, all of which are crucial around the water.
- If you ride a [motorcycle](#), make sure to wear all the gear, all the time – even if it’s hot outside. Proper personal protective equipment is a year-round requirement, on or off base.
- If you will be traveling out of the area by car this weekend, fill out a Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) report. You can find TRiPS at www.nko.navy.mil. The online assessment will help you recognize possible risk factors in your trip and determine ways to mitigate those risks.
- If using a barbeque grill over Labor Day weekend, [make sure your grill is in good working order](#), that it’s well-ventilated and away from the house and other structures.
- Never leave food unattended while cooking, whether it’s on the grill or on the stove.

Key Messages

- Enjoy the last few weeks of summer, but remember [off-duty risk management](#).
- Managing risk means considering what might go wrong and planning in advance to manage contingencies.
- Motor vehicle and recreational mishap rates have the potential to rise anytime there’s a long weekend. Each year, too many Sailors are injured or killed over the Labor Day weekend.
- Keep the press on so the positive summer trends can continue into the fall.

Facts & Figures

- Every summer, junior Sailors are disproportionately represented in the mishap statistics. So far this summer, five of the 18 fatalities were E-3 or below, three were E-4s, and five were E-5s. The other five were E-6 and above.
- Last year, 29 of 38 reportable mishaps across the Navy and Marine Corps involved off-duty recreation such as swimming, boating and sports injuries.