



Air Force Space Command Safety Gram



November 2011



SAFETY Never Takes a Holiday!

Holiday Safety Campaign

From 1990 through 2009, the Air Force experienced 138 off-duty and 18 on-duty fatalities from Thanksgiving to New Years. Most of these fatalities occurred in the traffic environment, and many of these were Airmen on leave to see family for the holidays. **The good news is that, for the past two years, the Air Force had ZERO preventable vehicle fatalities during the Holiday Safety Campaign!** This year's Holiday Safety Campaign runs from 18 Nov to 3 Jan. Your goal this season:

- ZERO Fatalities
- ZERO Injuries
- ZERO Traffic Mishaps

For more information on this campaign, visit the Air Force Safety Center website located at: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/videos/home.aspx?Filter=OO-SE-AF-18>



Snow Blower Safety

Most ER-treated wounds associated with snow blowers involve injuries to hands/fingers, including amputation. The typical cause? Users tried to clear a clogged auger or discharge chute with their hands.

Whichever snow blower you use this winter, a few basic steps will help keep you from becoming a statistic:

- Turn off engine/use clearing tool
- Start blower outside to prevent carbon monoxide hazards
- Don't wear loose clothing, which can get caught in moving parts
- Ensure engine is cool prior to refueling

For more information, visit: www.consumerreports.org

Turkey Fryers

Many people use a deep fat fryer to cook turkeys to perfection.



Respect these devices as they have the potential to cause serious injury or damage if you get careless. What you need to know:

The turkey must be completely thawed prior to cooking. Any water/ice present will flash to steam and may cause an eruption of steam & hot grease, possibly resulting in burns or a fire as the grease ignites on the burner below it. Only use the fryer outdoors and away from your home. In the event the grease overheats, spills or otherwise catches fire, your options are very limited.

Your BEST tool here is a Class-K fire extinguisher which is specifically designed for deep-fat fryers. Other extinguishers will not likely put this potentially dangerous fire out.

ABSOLUTELY DO NOT put water on this fire. The result will be a violent release of burning oil and a massive fireball. Because of the risk involved with these fryers, the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) no longer certifies them for use. Be very careful; don't let this happen to you (link below):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQYTMFCLy5E&feature=related>



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Vehicle Safety Kits

Vehicle safety kits don't have to be large and bulky. Some suggested items: Flash light, extra batteries, Multi-tool, jumper cables, tire chains, road flares, can of fix-a-flat, ice scraper, some basic hand tools, spare fuses, a clean towel or rag, a wool blanket (if it becomes wet, it will still keep you warm), spare gloves or mittens, a can of Sterno and some matches, or a couple of candles and a soup can to melt snow for water, trail mix and first aid kit. Extras include a foldable shovel, compass, signal whistle, MREs, tow rope, extra jacket, wool cap, wool socks and chemical hand warmers.



Stranded? Stay with your vehicle! If you're stuck in snow, dig out behind and underneath your vehicle to allow car exhaust to dissipate. Keep your windows and lights clear. Start your engine intermittently to keep you warm and prevent the engine from freezing up. Remember you have lights and a horn so save your energy and body heat to signal help. Leaving your vehicle is a last option only if you are dead certain of where help is and you can make it that far in the conditions.

More on Snow Blowers And Missing Fingers

In the last 10 years, the Air Force has reported 12 snow blower mishaps; 11 of them involving fingers and/or hands. Hint: SHUT IT OFF! And utilize a tool/stick instead of your beloved hands!

Think **SAFETY FIRST!** Short cuts to safety may leave you short a couple of fingers. Think how challenging it will be to "text" your friends!