



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2748 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCSM

21 NOV 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands
Directors, OTSG/MEDCOM OneStaff

SUBJECT: Holiday Season Safety

1. The Winter Holidays are a special time when Families and friends gather to celebrate the magic of this festive season. The sound of traditional holiday music, the smell of our favorite foods and the promise of a winter wonderland create an environment that offers immediate respite from our daily work routines. The holidays are a perennial bright spot on our already overcommitted calendars. American author and poet, Washington Irving opined that "the holidays are the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall and the genial flame of charity in the heart." While this season can be a magical time, it is also a challenge for others. Therefore, I encourage each of you to find meaningful ways to give back in your communities and whenever possible, to creatively incorporate your extended Army Medicine Family into your holiday plans.
2. While we may be in the midst of one of the happiest times of the year, the holidays present a new set of risks related to either preparing our homes for entertaining or traveling the increasingly congested roadways. For these reasons and the attendant distractions, I ask that you be particularly cognizant of your surroundings. Combating accidents and reducing accidental fatalities is a tough, but achievable, goal. Winter Safety initiative, "Know the Signs" campaign, is designed to heighten awareness of seasonal risk factors and provide leaders and Soldiers the tools they need to address safety issues in their unit or peer group. The signs are all around — it is up to you to recognize and act on them. The "Know the Signs" campaign, including tools and resources, is available at the Army Safety Center website, at <https://safety.army.mil>.
3. Cold weather injury prevention tools are available at the following Public Health Command website: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/discond/cip/Pages/default.aspx>. Many of you will be traveling to be with your Families over the next month. I ask each of you to use the TRiPS online planning tool found on the Army Safety Center website at <https://safety.army.mil> to assist you in making sound risk decisions regarding your travel plans.
4. Help to make this the safest and most joyful holiday season by looking out for each other and taking the time necessary to re-invest in your personal resiliency. During your restoration, I encourage you to invest a moment to reflect on your life's journey and the promise the future holds. Moreover, please say a special blessing for those deployed in harm's way and for their Families who are anxiously awaiting their safe return. To the entire Army Medicine Family, CSM Brock and I extend our personal best wishes for a joyous and peaceful holiday season. We are "Army Safe and Army Strong."

Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve!

PATRICIA D. HOROHO
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM