



D6 2011 Independence Day Safety Message

Two hundred thirty-five years ago, founders of this great Nation, representing the original thirteen colonies of the United States of America, signed one of the most important documents in our Nation's history: the Declaration of Independence. We commemorate the Declaration of Independence as our statement of values and beliefs and celebrate its signing on the Fourth of July.

This day is a time of social activities and celebrations with Family and friends, but it is not without an increased risk of accidents. I ask your help in ensuring a safe holiday while you're having fun.

Accidents seriously degrade Army readiness. Protecting the Force extends beyond military operations and must be a part of everything we do, on- and off-duty. We cannot afford losses, especially those due to carelessness. Maintain an awareness of the potential hazards around you. A number of risky activities associated with this holiday consist of neglecting firework safety precautions, swimming or boating irresponsibly, driving between midnight and early morning hours, failing to wear seat belts, speeding, and driving while under the influence.

Leaders and first-line supervisors can make a difference this holiday weekend. When you practice safety and teach others about safety, you are saving lives. Impress upon Soldiers, civilians, and Family members that accidents don't take a holiday. Talk to your employees and ensure they incorporate risk management into their plans, on- and off-duty. If you are planning on highway travel during this extended holiday weekend, review the POV toolbox on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center's webpage at <https://crc.army.mil/Tools/>.

Many communities will host special activities to mark this day. Sarah and I encourage your participation and trust all of you to use good judgment in whatever you do on America's Birthday, but most of all, have a safe and accident free holiday.

Support and Defend!

Defender 6

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Commanding General