



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE  
UNIT 29351  
APO AE 09014-9351

AEAGX-A

JUL 29 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Army in Europe Leaders, Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Safety Message 2—August 2010 Accident-Avoidance Guidance

This memorandum expires 30 September 2010.

1. This memorandum provides accident-avoidance information to leaders, Soldiers, employees, and Family members based on historical accident data and anticipated conditions from now until 30 September. Off-duty automobile and recreational-activity accidents will continue to negatively affect our force strength and Families if we do not recognize hazards or if we ignore them.
2. A great part of living in Europe is the opportunity to travel. However, we must be aware of the risks of driving for extended periods of time and should plan for frequent breaks. We are exposed to daily dangers and increased operational risks when operating motor vehicles. Existing and potential hazards must be evaluated in all situations to ensure you and your Family do not become the next victims. We must be especially vigilant on the autobahn, as evidenced when a Soldier who was helping at the scene of an accident was fatally injured. Drivers should be aware that it is unlawful for them to stop their vehicles on the autobahn for any reason except in an emergency (for example, at the scene of an accident) or situations where stopping is unavoidable, such as being involved in a collision. This includes stopping on emergency lanes.
3. There are powerful behavioral influences that can empower us to change our risky behaviors. The simple act of clicking your seatbelt or telling someone to slow down or take a cab are examples. Statistically, backseat passengers are the most likely to not buckle up. Recent Soldier fatalities have occurred as a direct result. The odds of fatal injuries or permanent disabilities dramatically increase when passengers are not buckled in. During collisions, passengers who are not wearing seatbelts can become projectiles. Other potential projectiles include objects in the vehicle such as books, luggage, and toolbags. To assist drivers in the Army in Europe, each garrison will host *Securing Loads for Vehicle Transportation Awareness* training from 29 June through 18 November 2010. Training details are on the *Fight the Risk* campaign events website at <http://www.fight-the-risk.army.mil/events.html>.
4. Operating a motorcycle requires additional vigilance because drivers in vehicles frequently do not perceive the smaller profile of motorcycles. Most experienced motorcycle riders know that they may be cut off by other drivers merging onto their lane or pulling out in front of them.
5. Longer days of sunshine increase off-duty outdoor activities and social events. We must take care to avoid overexertion, sprains, or heat-related injuries that can commonly occur during many physical activities conducted on or off duty. One way to reduce the risk of injury is to avoid consuming alcohol because it diminishes the ability to reason and greatly increases the risk involved in swimming, boating, and other recreational activities. Other ways to reduce risks may

*This memorandum is available at <https://aepubs.army.mil/>.*

AEAGX-A

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Safety Message 2—Summer 2010 Accident-Avoidance Guidance

be found on the Army's *Play It Safe* summer safety campaign website at <https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/campaigns/initiatives/summersafety2010/tabid/1838/default.aspx>. The website provides posters, videos, and feature articles on more than 20 summer safety topics, including vacation travel, heat stress, and water and swimming safety. The United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine also created a Physical Training Injury Prevention Toolbox that can be used to mitigate and prevent on- and off-duty sports-related injuries. The toolbox is available at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/ptipt/default.aspx>.

6. Last year's and this spring's accidental fatalities continue to closely follow our predictions. Leaders, battle buddies, and Family members can help prevent accidents by reminding others to extend on-duty risk management to off-duty activities. The following are the accident forecasts:

a. The most likely cause of death will be automobile accidents. These accidents will involve a privately owned vehicle (POV) and occur between 0500 and 0600. They will involve an off-duty group of Soldiers coming back from a club, and include at least one noncommissioned officer (NCO) most likely 23 years old. The driver will lose control of the POV because of fatigue or excess speed, alcohol will be involved, and seatbelts will not be used.

b. The second most likely cause of death will be motorcycle accidents. These accidents will occur late afternoon or early evening during the extended sunlight hours. They will involve a male NCO, most likely 32 years old. Close to home, he will leave the road because of overconfidence or excessive speed. Alcohol will likely not be involved.

c. The third most likely cause of death or serious injury will be from a fall out of a home or barracks window. These accidents will involve an E4, most likely a 25-year old male, and involve alcohol.

7. Preventing loss, impairment, or injury of Soldiers, civilians, and Family members should be foremost in everyone's mind. Engagement by leaders and Families will have a positive effect on health and well being. We can help keep each other safe and prevent the tragic loss of life by leveraging the comradery of colleagues and closeness of friends and Family.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ROBERT B. BROWN  
Major General, GS  
Chief of Staff