



A Positive Approach to the “Critical Days of Summer”

What’s going on?

- If you’ve been in the Navy for at least a year, you probably had to sit through a safety stand down marking the beginning of “The Critical Days of Summer,” the time period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day.
- The lectures, presentations and videos contained good risk management information, but often made it sound as if a trip to the beach was an evolution likely to end in death or dismemberment.
- Summer is supposed to be a time for fun! It’s a time for vacations, water sports and backyard barbecues. It’s time to focus on the positive.

What’s the solution?

- The Naval Safety Center has joined forces with the Army and Air Force safety centers to maximize our resources and provide the tools that will allow you to participate in your favorite activities — even the higher risk ones — successfully.
- The joint service summer safety campaign is no longer called the “Critical Days of Summer.” Instead of trying to scare you away from activities like motorcycling, hang gliding, mountain climbing, and water skiing, we want to help you think of ways to mitigate the risks involved in these activities.
- One of the biggest risk factors for any summertime activity is alcohol. Managing risk means you don’t mix the twelve ounce curls with swimming, driving, or other activities that require judgment and motor skills.
- Get trained. It’s OK if you’re going to participate

in a risky activity, but it’s not OK to jump out of an airplane if you aren’t quite sure how to work the parachute. Proper training reduces risk.

What Can You Do?

- Visit www.safetycenter.navy.mil and download summer risk management resources. Share the material with friends and family.
- Everyone can be a leader. Be the voice of reason when planning summertime activities.
- If you’re hosting a summer party, provide non-alcoholic drinks and if your friends are too drunk to drive, don’t let them. Insist they remain overnight.

Discussion Items and Open Questions

1. What should the new summer safety campaign be called now that the term “Critical Days of Summer” has been canned? Email your suggestions to SAFE-PAO@navy.mil.
2. What are your favorite summertime activities? Are these activities risky, and is the risk compounded by other factors?
3. Have you had any close calls in recent summers? What happened, and what could you have done differently?

Supervisors: Use this page to guide safety discussions with your personnel