



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
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MNAR-CG

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Message 2019

1. Winter weather can present challenges to operations and training. Some key safety areas to focus on are:

- a. Equipment maintenance checks must be completed during every drill. Maintenance faults must be addressed. Winterization checks must be completed before severe weather has an impact.
- b. Proper clothing and protective equipment for Soldiers must be issued and serviceable. Hypothermia and exposure injuries can cripple our Soldiers.
- c. Effective supervision during operations and training and observing safe operation of equipment will increase readiness of our forces. Practicing Risk Management (RM) and enforcing safety standards will lessen the dangers our Soldiers are exposed to.
- d. Family emergency preparedness will allow Soldiers to focus on their mission. A distracted Soldier is at risk to become injured or cause injury to a fellow Soldier. Adequate preparation for families will result in Soldiers who can focus on the mission.

2. Maintaining the readiness of personnel and equipment must remain a priority. Observing applicable safety practices and managing risk is a leader responsibility. Effective RM includes the preparation and use of the Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet. Our jobs are inherently dangerous, RM can reduce the impact of that danger on our forces.

3. Winter safety extends to Civil Support Operations. Our forces have historically responded to winter emergencies during some of the worst weather. Leaders must ensure that Soldiers and their equipment are kept in a state of readiness so they may respond in a timely manner. Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) must be performed during each drill. Operators must know how to drive vehicles safely and follow appropriate vehicle restrictions. Winterization of our vehicles and equipment will help prepare them for immediate action when called upon.


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4. Leaders must ensure Soldiers have the appropriate protective clothing and gear to keep them safe during operations and training. Soldiers should have their gear packed and ready in order to respond quickly when called upon. The ability to respond quickly and effectively can be the key to mission success.

5. Operating our equipment on the public roadways can place civilians at risk. Following the guidance provided in the Army Motor Vehicle Operations policy letter (27 April 2018) can reduce the dangers to Soldiers and the civilian population during equipment movement and convoy operations. Winter driving safety should be emphasized by leaders before actually operating vehicles in that environment.

6. Additional Winter safety information and tools for Leaders can be found at <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/SeasonalSafetyCampaigns/AllSeasons.aspx>.



RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.
Major General, NYARNG
Commanding General

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