



STATE SAFETY OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
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SAFETY MESSAGE 20-03

March is Driver's Fatigue Management

With warmer weather coming soon, the return to more traditional training will be here before we know it. With the last training year being disrupted by the COVID-19 virus and training going to a virtual event for several assembly weekends, it is important to reemphasize the importance of the driver's responsibility (military or civilian on and off installations) to ensure they are getting the required amount of rest to operate any vehicle in the Army inventory (tactical or non-tactical) in a safe manner. This message also stresses the importance of the Senior Occupant and the Convoy Commander's responsibilities in the operation of military vehicles in accordance with AR 600-55, Chapter 1, to prevent accidents and fatalities.

To reduce the potential for traffic accidents caused by operator fatigue, commanders will establish and enforce specific rest and duty hours for Army Motor Vehicle (AMV) operations. This should include but are not limited to:

- Operators will be provided at least 8 consecutive hours of rest during any 24-hour period.
- An operator will not drive more than 10 hours in a duty day (including rest and meal breaks).
- If more than 10 hours are needed to complete operations, commanders will assign to each vehicle and assistant driver to operate the vehicle.

The Senior Occupant in a military vehicle is the ranking individual present. The Senior occupant will ensure:

- The driver does not exceed the maximum operating hours listed in AR 385-10, paragraph 11-4, without a rest break.
- Will not permit a driver who appears fatigued or physically, mentally or emotionally impaired to operate a vehicle.
- Ensure the authorized seating capacity of the vehicle is not exceeded.
- Ensure vehicle occupants wear installed restraint systems when the vehicle is in motion.
- Assist the driver in recognizing unsafe traffic situations and unsafe mechanical conditions of the vehicle.

- Assist the driver in backing or executing difficult maneuvers.
- Ensure the driver complies with road signs and posted speed limits and adjusts as dictated by weather, traffic, and road conditions.
- Ensures highway marking devices are properly displayed when the vehicle is stopped on or beside the traveled portion of the street, road, or highway (see FM 21-305).

Further guidance and information can be found:

- AR 385-10, The Army Safety Program
- AR 600-55, The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program

To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

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