



NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SAFETY OFFICE **RISK MANAGEMENT MONTHLY**

**NOV
2025**

Fall & Winter Safety Campaign 2025

- Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving! Take the time to reflect and spend quality time with family and loved ones! Enjoy the winter weather - safety first!
- Remember that standards and discipline, as well as safety awareness applies 24/7, both on and off duty! Always have a backup plan and be ready for anything!
- Get your FREE flu shot and stay healthy during the holidays!
- <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Seasonal-Safety-Campaigns/Fall-Winter-Safety-2025>



SUBJECT: Holiday and Winter Safety Message 2025-2026

1. As we move into the holidays and winter season, it's important for every New York Army National Guard member to stay alert to the seasonal risks that come during this time of year. Snow and ice make slips and falls more likely, and driving conditions can change quickly. Cold weather can also lead to frostbite and hypothermia if you're not prepared. Before heading out, make sure vehicles are winter-ready, give yourself extra time on the road, and wear footwear with good traction. When working or training outdoors, dress in layers and check on your battle buddies and family members for signs of cold stress. Staying ready means staying safe. Take a few extra moments to prepare—your awareness and caution can prevent accidents and keep our team strong throughout the season.

2. Between October 2024 and February 2025, the New York Army National Guard experienced 15 winter weather-related mishaps, including motor vehicles, slips and falls, fire-related injuries, sports/recreational accidents, and generator-related hazards.

a. Motor vehicle mishaps (5 incidents).

(1) Three incidents involved vehicles colliding with deer, highlighting the risk of wildlife encounters during winter months.

(2) Two incidents occurred due to loss of vehicle control on icy roads, emphasizing the dangers of slippery surfaces during winter driving.

b. Slips and falls (6 incidents).

(1) Six Soldiers sustained injuries from slips or falls on ice-covered pavements, showing that icy walking surfaces remain a major hazard even for trained personnel.

c. Fire pit mishap (1 incident).

(1) One Service Member was severely burned when their sleeve caught fire while warming next to a fire pit after drill. This incident demonstrates the importance of maintaining safe distances and protective clothing around open flames.

d. Sports/Recreation mishap (1 incident).

(1) One Soldier suffered a broken collarbone during a skiing accident, indicating recreational winter activities carry inherent risks that require proper safety precautions, including wearing appropriate protective gear and knowing one's skill level.

e. Generators-Related Mishaps (2 incidents).

(1) One Soldier experienced carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator, highlighting the danger of using generators in poorly ventilated areas.

(2) Another Soldier sustained frostbite after direct skin contact with diesel fuel, underscoring the need for proper handling and protective gear when operating fuel-powered equipment.

3. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center will release their 2025 Fall/Winter Safety Campaign in November. Leaders should check <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA> for resources designed to educate Soldiers on the hazards associated with winter and cold-weather safety. All resources are easily downloadable and ready to use in your safety briefings and training.

4. Leaders must continue to engage with their Soldiers outside of drill weekends. The holidays can be a stressful and lonely. Be available to provide support and resources when needed. Just listening can make a difference. Please contact your chain of command for help if you, your battle buddy or a family member is struggling.

5. On behalf of Command Sergeant Major Corey Cush, myself, and the entire New York Army National Guard command group, we wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.

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



Safety Tools & Resources



*The New York Army
National Guard Safety
Webpage*



*The Army National Guard
Safety Website*



*Is your command compliant?
Initiate a Command Safety
Assessment*



*The United States Army
Combat Readiness Center
Website*



*The future of Safety
Reporting and Statistics
for the Army*



*Create & Manage your
deliberate risk management
worksheets online*

Proponent for this Monthly Newsletter is the NYARNG Safety Team

New York Army National Guard, ATTN: MNAV-OS, 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, New York 12110-3514

GET YOUR VEHICLE WINTER READY

Check your tires for wear and tear

Get a tune, including oil change & battery check

Check your headlights, taillights, & turn signals

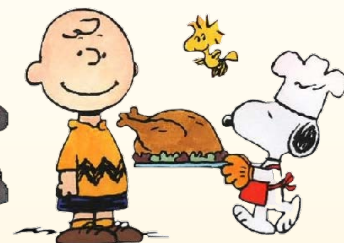
Inspect your windshield wiper

Check your vehicles door locks & latches for icing

Keep your fuel tank full

Don't use your windshield wipers to remove snow. Use a brush or ice scraper

Keep your vehicle undercarriage clean of accumulated road salt



LET'S TALK TURKEY

Types of turkeys regulated by the USDA:



Unsafe handling and under-cooking your holiday bird can cause foodborne illnesses. Here are a few tips from the USDA to keep your Thanksgiving safe and delicious!

Essential Winter Safe Driving Tips

Roads that are slippery with ice and snow can be difficult for even the most experienced driver. Before you head out, know that you can take precautions to help ensure that you arrive at your destination safely.

- Slow Down**
Slippery roads reduce the amount of traction your tires have and these conditions make your vehicle harder to control. Slow down to give yourself plenty of time to react to hazards.
- Increase Your Following Distance**
Allow plenty of space between your car and other vehicles. It takes four to ten times more distance to stop on ice and snow than on dry pavement.
- Know the Roads**
Ice forms more quickly on bridges, overpasses, intersections and hills. By knowing and identifying these potentially slippery areas, you can reduce your speed accordingly when approaching them.
- Leave Early**
Allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely so that you don't feel the need to rush or speed.
- Be Prepared for Anything**
Pack essential emergency items in your vehicle and make sure you have someone to contact if you need help.
- Buckle Up**
Seat belts continue to be proven as the #1 life-saving device in crashes.



3 WAYS TO THAW

While frozen, a turkey is safe indefinitely. As soon as it begins to thaw, bacteria that may have been present before freezing will begin to grow again. Here are three ways to safely thaw your bird:

Refrigerator:
Safe to store the turkey for another 1-2 days in the refrigerator.
This is the USDA recommended thawing method.

How to thaw:
Allow approximately 24 hrs. for every 4-5 lbs of bird.

Cold water:
Cook immediately after thawing.
How to thaw:
Submerge the bird in cold water & change every 30 mins.

Microwave:
Cook immediately after thawing.

How to thaw:
Use defrost function based on weight.

For more information on safe thawing methods, visit fsis.usda.gov

DID YOU KNOW?
It's safe to cook a frozen turkey though cooking time will be 50% longer!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit foodsafety.gov

If you have a specific question, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHOTLINE or visit AskKaren.gov. Visit PregunteleKaren.gov for questions in Spanish.



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