



U.S. ARMY



RM RISK MANAGEMENT

OFFICIAL SAFETY MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. ARMY

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TAIL ROTOR STRIKES

A Black Hawk crew set out for routine confined-area training under ideal skies. But on their fourth approach, dangerous mutual assumptions and a visual illusion created a critical blind spot. With everyone focused on the nose, the aircraft drifted into the tree line, resulting in a tail rotor strike. Read the full article to discover the crucial crew coordination breakdowns behind this near-catastrophe and the vital safety lessons that could save your next mission.



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FOLLOWING PROCEDURES

A single bypassed checklist step can trigger immediate disaster. See how an unsecured tool sparked a deadly silo explosion, launching a 9-megaton nuclear warhead into the Arkansas sky, and why strict compliance is your ultimate line of defense.



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RANGE COMPLACENCY

Is “that’s how we’ve always done it” putting your Soldiers at risk? Discover how a leader’s range visit during hand grenade qualification halted a dangerous shortcut before it turned deadly, and why being engaged is a safeguard against complacency.

PRODUCTS & TOOLS



Learn the safety culture and climate within your organization.



A family of information technology systems that underpins the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System.



A great resource for motorcycle information and learning to be a safe rider.



An interactive, easy-to-use, automated system designed to assist users with the application of risk management.



Make your Soldiers aware of the off-duty hazards they’ll face with the Off-Duty Safety Awareness Presentation.



A collection of resources to aid commanders and leaders in the management of range operations and safe weapons handling.

DID YOU KNOW?

RISK MANAGEMENT is always looking for contributors to provide ground, aviation, driving and off-duty safety articles. Don’t worry if you’ve never written an article for publication. Just write about what you know and our editorial staff will take care of the rest. Your story might just save another Soldier’s life. Click the **Submit An Article** tab below to share your story.



WHAT’S NEW

DRIVER BATTLE DRILLS

When the terrain turns treacherous and visibility drops, hesitation is not an option. Adverse conditions demand immediate, disciplined reactions. This printable leader’s card provides step-by-step battle drills to help you manage risk and ensure your Soldiers operate their tactical vehicles safely.

Click here to download the guide to master your next movement.

BATTLE DRILLS: DRIVING THROUGH ADVERSE TERRAIN AND WEATHER

LACK-OF-TRACTION HAZARDS	DEGRADED-VISIBILITY HAZARDS
DRILL: “GRIT” Maintain momentum and traction on unstable surfaces to avoid becoming stuck. • Gentle Control: Avoid abrupt steering or braking. • Reduce Speed: Maintain a controlled, consistent pace. • Increase Momentum (when appropriate): Use speed to overcome resistance. • Traction Aids (if needed): Deploy mats, boards or a winch.	DRILL: “CLEAR” Maintain control and situational awareness in severely limited visibility conditions. • Calm Down (reduce speed): Slow to 10-15 mph or slower. • Lights On (mission dictated): Activate headlights, fog lights, hazards. • Enclose (seal vehicle): Prevent intrusion of the elements. • Alert & Aware: Increase scanning, maintain focus. • Report Conditions: Communicate visibility to the unit.
WATER HAZARDS	INCLINE/DECLINE HAZARDS
DRILL: “SWAMP” Navigate and cross water obstacles safely, preventing vehicle submersion. • Stop & Assess: Halt and reconnoiter the crossing point. • Waterproof & Prepare: Seal the vehicle and raise intakes/exhausts. • Advance Steadily: Maintain speed and steer into the current. • Monitor & Report: Track the engine and report status. • Post-Crossing Check: Inspect the vehicle for damage.	DRILL: “GEAR” Descend steep slopes safely, maintain vehicle control and prevent loss of braking ability. • Gradual Reduction: Reduce speed before starting the descent. • Engage Lower Gears: Select a gear that allows engine braking. • Apply Brakes Gently: Use brakes intermittently to control speed. Avoid continuous braking. • Ready to Steer: Be prepared for potential loss of traction and steer accordingly.

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BEAT THE HEAT!

TAKE STEPS THIS SUMMER TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A HEAT CASUALTY.

- SCHEDULE WORKOUTS EARLIER OR LATER IN THE DAY WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS COOLER.
- START ACTIVITIES SLOWLY AND PICK UP THE PACE GRADUALLY.
- DRINK MORE WATER THAN USUAL. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE THIRSTY.
- MONITOR YOUR BATTLE BUDDY'S CONDITION AND HAVE THEM DO THE SAME FOR YOU.
- WEAR LOOSE, LIGHTWEIGHT CLOTHING.
- IF YOU FEEL FAINT OR WEAK, STOP ALL ACTIVITY AND GET TO A COOL PLACE.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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WATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

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