

THE SENTINEL



OFFICIAL SAFETY NEWSLETTER OF CIVIL AIR PATROL

You Drink and Drive - You Lose Labor Day National Crack-down

Friends Don't Let
Friends Drive Drunk



Federal transportation officials just kicked-off the largest ever You Drink & Drive. You Lose national enforcement crackdown. Nationwide, a record number of 11,500 law enforcement agencies are participating in the coast-to-coast crack-down. With checkpoints, roving patrols, undercover officers and concerned citizens, chances are if you drive impaired this holiday you will be arrested, booked and prosecuted.

Impaired driving is one of America's most often committed and deadliest crimes. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report, more than 1.4 million people nationwide were arrested in 2003 for driving under the influence. Nationally, nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving at least a driver or motorcycle rider with an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of 0.08 or higher. Driving with a BAC of 0.08 and above is illegal in every state

Overall, alcohol-related fatalities declined by 2.4 percent in 2004 from 2003, the second consecutive year in which alcohol-related fatalities have declined. A total of 32 States and the District of Columbia showed a decline in alcohol-related fatalities in 2004 from 2003.

510 people are projected to die in automobile crashes during the Labor Day holiday and about half (260) will be alcohol-related. The most valuable message anyone can take away is:

You Drink & Drive. You Lose.

It can cost violators over \$8,000 on bail, court, a

lawyer and towing fees instead of using this money on their last summer vacation. Refuse a sobriety test and you can lose your license on the spot and have your car impounded. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reminds everyone of these lifesaving tips:

- Be responsible - don't risk it - you'll be caught
- If you plan to drink, choose a designated (sober) driver before going out
- Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive you home
- Spend the night nearby
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement
- Always buckle up – it's your best defense against an impaired driver.

Maj Larry Mattiello Named Safety Officer of the Year

The Texas Wing Safety Officer was selected as the National Safety Officer of the Year and recognized at the recent CAP National Conference in St. Louis. He is the President of Aero Insurance, Inc. and is one of the most recognized industry speakers on risk management. His National Conference Learning Lab on "Ego Busting" was standing room only. Larry is also a Texas Wing Mission Pilot with a Commercial/Instrument rating. Congratulations Larry!



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Rhode Island Wing Takes The Paul W. Turner Safety Award

During the past year, Rhode Island Wing has been accident-free; an enviable safety record! This fact, coupled with the state's extended shoreline and rapidly changing coastal weather, confirms an effective risk management program and the wing's dedication to mishap prevention. Especially noteworthy is the constant safety emphasis in all of their activities. The safety support they provide on missions with other state agencies and their proactive risk management program are just two reasons for their success. Records like this don't just happen; it's a result of a well-planned, continuous effort by Col Anthony Vessella and all of the members of the Rhode Island Wing.



Sterile Cockpit

Have you heard the term "sterile cockpit"? No, it's not a new blood-borne pathogen requirement. Nor is it a pilot condition caused by ozone depletion. The term refers to making the cockpit "sterile of distraction." When should you have a sterile cockpit? Anytime the workload is high and concentration is of the utmost importance. Distractions can result in accidents, especially when the workload is high. High workload generally occurs when the aircraft transitions from one phase of flight to another - basically, all of the flight except the cruise portion. So, how do we make the cockpit free of distraction? By limiting conversation to only that which is absolutely required to safely conduct the flight. You should brief your desire for a sterile cockpit not only to your crew, but to your passengers as well. Be sure to let everyone know that they should not hesitate to point out traffic or bring attention to anything they feel affects the safety of the flight. Most of the CAP aircraft fleet are now equipped with audio panels that include crew isolation features. This

technology isolates the pilot from distractions however, it adds the responsibility for good crew resource management (CRM) so that all crewmembers know what the others are up to.

Grilling Safety

As we celebrate the social and economic achievements of the American workers and the unofficial end of summer this month, many of us will be involved with outdoor grilling. To keep this activity enjoyable, you need to keep it safe. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states that gas and charcoal grills cause approximately 1,000 structure fires and 3,400 outdoor fires in or on home properties each year. To make sure your next barbecue doesn't go up in flames, consider these tips:

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- If you have a propane grill, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. Have leaking fuel lines repaired before using.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Other Safety Meeting Topics

- **Huffing - the Abuse of Inhalants:**
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs07/708/>
- **Flood Safety:**
<http://www.floodsafety.com/>
- **Wing Contamination:**
<http://www.aopa.org/asf/publications/SB02.pdf>
- **AOPA Online Mountain Flying Course:**
<http://flash.aopa.org/asf/mountainFlying/flash.cfm>