

101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER 2014

Risk management has a role in everything we do, both on and off duty. It continues to be the job of the safety professionals to provide guidance to all Airmen about the dangers of the season. Airmen use sound risk management every day on duty and, while the main focus of the Critical Days of Summer campaign is off duty activities, Airmen must use the same risk management techniques in all circumstances.

Chapter 1
May 23, 2014



101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER



Chapter 1: National Lampoon's Vacation

Topic: Summer Travel

As we begin the summer season, taking leave and getting away is on our minds. Planning ahead is always a good step to help avoid the many risks that have the potential to ruin your vacation. It all begins with TRiPS (<https://www.my.af.mil/trips/af/Login.aspx>). This is an effective risk management tool to find hidden dangers in your travel plans.

It's easy to think, "This won't happen to me," but does anyone plan on a tragedy? During the 2013 Critical Days of Summer period there were seven Airmen killed in a vehicle and nine in motorcycle accidents. None planned for this to happen. Regardless of what caused the tragedy, using every risk management tool reduces your odds of being involved in a mishap.

The hazards associated with summer driving appear to be fewer than winter driving. This is not the case. Some of the situations that make it dangerous (<http://www.esurance.com/driving-tips/summer-driving>):

- More teens on the road
- Drivers on vacation add to road congestion
- Tire blowouts
- Increased road construction
- More bicycles and motorcycles on the road
- Sun and excess heat

Before you can call your plans final, your vehicle should be part of your plans. Take care of any needed maintenance and ensure you have an emergency kit in your car. The kit should include:

- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Flares and a white flag
- Jumper cables
- Basic repair tools
- A jug of water and paper towels for cleaning up
- Nonperishable food, such as granola bars and drinking water
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Maps

Below is a publication from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration that includes information for summer travel. An interactive version of this publication can be found at:

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/links/SummerDrivingTips/>.

NHSTA_Summer_Tips_23May2013.pdf

Additional information on summer travel:

<http://www.cartalk.com/content/summer-driving-tips-1>

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/driver-safety>

