2016 deadliest year on roadways since 2007

The National Safety Council (NSC) identified 2016 as the most deadly year on the roadways since 2007. This is not news to anyone who received the Naval Safety Center’s quarterly report in December 2016 as our analysts had already identified and posted the Navy spike in the document.

The National Safety Council has released preliminary data showing that as many as 40,000 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. The figure is six percent higher than the number of fatalities in 2015 and marks a 14 percent increase from 2014 – the largest two-year spike since 1964. Last month, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that traffic deaths surged about eight percent in the first nine months of 2016.

How does all of this compare to the Navy? The Navy saw a 78 percent increase from FY15 to FY16. This percentage may seem high but when looking only at the number of fatalities, the Navy lost nine Sailors in FY15 and 16 Sailors last year. The good news is the Navy’s fatality rate is consistently and considerably lower than that of the national average by almost 50 percent over the last five years.

‘Return to Home Port’ safety resources on CD

From FY12-FY16, 53 Sailors died in on-duty mishaps. During that same time period, 168 Sailors were killed in traffic wrecks, and another 44 died in other off-duty and recreational mishaps.* This data shows why we say that Sailors are safer at work (no matter how risk-filled their jobs). It also dramatizes why it is so important that our personnel take a risk-management mindset with them when they return from deployment and enjoy some well-deserved liberty and leave.

This CD contains some resources to help get them thinking the right way as they get in their cars and on their motorcycles and fan out across the base, the local area, or the rest of the U.S. The main resource is a series of presentations on a variety of traffic and off-duty topics. Ideally, safety officers and facilitators will localize and adapt these to include other command or local issues.

To get your copy of the Return to Home Port CD, send an email request to safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil or contact (757) 444-3520, ext. 7870.

Joint initiative for ergonomic, lower-vibration tools

The Department of Defense/Industry Working Group and the General Services Administration, Heartland Acquisition Center (HAC) have been working together to ensure a wide variety of ergonomic, lower-vibration tools are offered to the DoD and government communities.

The group has chosen to focus initially on lower vibration due to the health risks associated with hand-arm vibration. One such risk is hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS), previously known as Raynaud syndrome (also called Raynaud's phenomenon), a potentially irreversible disease associated with prolonged and intense exposure to vibration. Tools developed to reduce vibration often bring other desirable performance properties. Longer tool life span as well as greater productivity and efficiency are among these benefits.

GSA'S WEBSITE outlines the program details.

This collaboration has also involved liaison with National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), DoD and industry partners through the SAE International EG1-B1 Aerospace Standards committee. The result of this partnership has been the development of AeroSpace Standard AS6228, “Safety Requirements for Procurement, Maintenance and Use of Hand-Held Powered Tools.” This standard provides information on the evaluation, selection criteria, weighting of essential factors and matrices for the purpose of tool selection. The AS6228 has a wide range of potential users from the end user through acquisition and contracting personnel.

For those seeking to extend this type of approach to other areas, a presentation on obtaining best available products through the Federal supply system will be given at the 2017 Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium in April. Additional information is also available on the NAVAL SAFETY CENTER’S WEBSITE.

CONTACTS

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Annual motorcycle magazine coming soon

Ride magazine will be back this summer with a focus on motorcycle safety and ways to enjoy the ride. The magazine will also feature some life-changing stories from Sailors who have experienced the best and worst of motorcycle incidents. The lessons they share are valuable and will make you think twice before you ride.

This year’s edition will feature the latest and greatest in motorcycle safety gear. It is chock full of fun tidbits of information like 5 Epic Coastal Motorcycle Rides, and the Veterans Ride to Sturgis where veterans got the opportunity to meet celebrities Jay Leno and Mark Wahlberg. Reserve your copy today before they’re all gone.

Get on the Ride magazine distribution by contacting safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil.


Did you know?

Interesting, unusual, unexpected facts:

➤ In Japan, the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit is 0.03 on or off-base as opposed to 0.08 in the states.
➤ Command mishap rates tend to increase just prior to a change of command. This may be attributed to changes in leadership’s focus.
➤ Fatigue plays a role in almost all mishaps. Ensure seven to nine hours of sleep the night prior to athletic or high-risk events.

Source: NAVSAFECEN Shore Safety Programs Directorate

UPCOMING EVENTS

To spread the word about our safety programs and risk-management resources, the Naval Safety Center analysts, subject-matter experts and public affairs specialists take to the road promoting safety awareness. We hope to see you at these upcoming events. [Booth] indicates we will have an exhibit.

➤ APRIL 3-4:  Sea, Air, and Space Exposition
The Navy League’s Sea-Air-Space Exposition brings the U.S. defense industrial base, private-sector U.S. companies and key military decision makers together for an annual innovative, educational, professional and maritime based event. [Booth]

➤ APRIL 24-28:  25th Annual Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium
Register now for the online Joint PDS hosted by NAVSAFECEN and the Environmental Training Center. The virtual event brings together professionals in the fields of safety, industrial hygiene, public health, environmental stewardship, and energy management. The week-long symposium offers 180 plus sessions. For more information, contact the PDS2017 coordinator by emailing sheldon.griffin@navy.mil or calling (757) 445-8778, ext. 344.

➤ MAY 15-18:  Naval Helicopter Association Symposium
Attendees gather valuable information about rotary wing aviation. Come to the safety briefing and stop by our exhibit area. [Booth]

This e-newsletter is being sent to you based on your interest in the Naval Safety Center. If you know someone who’d like to sign up for the NAVSAFECEN e-Blast, have them send a request to: safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil. If you don’t want to get future emails, please send an email to safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil, with the subject UNSUBSCRIBE.