



THE MARYLAND WING SAFETY MONTHLY



MAY 2026



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The Safety Way

A safety message from Maryland Wing Commander Col Brenda Reed:

This time of year also calls for awareness and care. As we get back into outdoor activities, whether it's sports, yardwork, or simply enjoying the longer days, safety must remain at the forefront of everything we do. I'm especially reminded of this in my own garden, where preparation, patience, and attention to detail make all the difference between success and setback (as well as not overdoing it with my shovel). The same is true in our daily lives and in CAP operations: taking the time to do things the right way ensures we're ready for the challenges ahead while protecting ourselves and those around us.



Thank you, Colonel. That is **The Safety Way**.



CADET CORNER—LIFE INSURANCE

Normally when we think about that are available to obtain life insurance, we imagine a that would be excellent life policy that pays when insurance policies. someone passes away. But we should consider that there are other types of life insurance that can protect our lives and the lives of those that depend on us. Swimming lessons, for example. And fire training. And anything else that will help prepare you, a Civil Air Patrol cadet, for your current service and your future and the future of others. Think about what types of skills and education



Your Director of Safety receives phone calls, text messages, & emails. Contact

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THE PILOT'S CORNER - TOO MUCH

I have been watching videos of facing. It is essential that we as aircraft accidents recently and pilots be realistic about our a common error has risen to the surface. Pilots have died because they attempted flights that they were not prepared for. Primarily, the major contributing factors were little recency of experience or insufficient experience in general. Too long a flight, marginal weather, too complex an aircraft, and a "can do" attitude caused all of them to be overwhelmed by the circumstances they ended up



We need to be patient and allow ourselves time to build up to greater challenges. Set personal minimums. There is no room in the cockpit for any of our egos.



Timeliness is a component of safety. Do not put off inspecting your squadron spaces, performing safety briefings, inspecting safety equipment, and other essential functions. Injuries to personnel are very much preventable if we take the time to do our due diligence and see to preventative measures today.



WISDOM



Wisdom for every day:

- Preparation beats talent.
- Always respect the weather.
- You cannot negotiate with reality.
- Stay curious and keep learning.
- Failure is a teacher and not an enemy.
- People matter more than airplanes.
- Gratitude and respect changes everyone for the better.



CAPR 160-1 (I) IN FOCUS - HEALTH PRO

CAPR 160-1 (I) 1-4. Field Positions.

a. Each region and wing commander shall have a health professional on their staff. The CAP/HS serves as an advisor to each region/wing commander for the selection of a new wing/region health service officer.

CAPR 160-1 IN FOCUS - CAP/SE

CAPR 160-1 2.6.1.5 CAP/SE will regularly update CAP/CC, CAP/COO, CAP/GCO, CAP Senior Advisory Group (CSAG), and CAP-USAF/CC on the overall safety culture and safety programs in CAP. Suggested update topics include, but are not limited to:

2.6.1.5.1. New or emerging trend areas, including discussion of notable mishaps, national trends in types of mishaps or contributing factors, and recommended courses of action related to each.

CAPR 160-2 IN FOCUS - REVIEWING OFFICERS

CAPR 160-2 7.1 Review Officer Assignment. Responsibilities for assigning review officers are as follows:

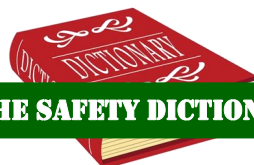
7.1.2.1 When an SSO involves members or equipment from a region other than the one responsible for the mission, activity, accredited program, or other event, a review officer from those regions may be assigned to support review and analysis of the SSO following coordination with the applicable region commander or their director of safety.



COPY, PASTE, & CLICK

Here are some helpful refueling tips to keep you and your aircraft safe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4k-zduqGtQ>



THE SAFETY DICTIONARY

Gratitude- the feeling and/or expression of appreciation.

SAFETY IN THE MOVIES



You do not have to be a pilot to know that jet engines need fuel, and that fuel is a consumable that gives you time in the air. The key takeaway from this 1995 rendition of a true story is that proper fuel planning is essential to safety of flight. In addition, if you have any doubts about anything when preparing to fly, stop what you are doing

and get clarification. In this instance, there was a significant error made in translating between imperial and metric measurements which caused an insufficient amount of jet fuel to be loaded onto an airliner. Make sure you understand the system you are managing. Seek help if something seems wrong or out of your area of expertise. Failure to do that in this case turned an airliner into a glider. Fortunately, there was no loss of life.

The Gimli Glider refers to Air Canada Flight 143, a Boeing 767 which ran out of fuel on July 23, 1983, and successfully made an emergency landing at a former military base in Gimli, Manitoba, with no fatalities among the 69 people on board. The incident revealed critical issues in aviation safety, including a failed fuel gauge and the fueler's miscalculations in fuel loading.

TOGETHER=SAFETY

Working together builds safety by creating a culture of shared responsibility, enhances open communication, and allows the perspectives of team members to identify risks. Effective cooperation enhances the awareness of hazards, increases accountability, and ensures team members can support one another to prevent accidents or errors.



WINGMAN=VALUE

A wingman provides essential help and protection. They give support, enhance confidence, and ensure safety. They act as a trusted partner who watches your back, helps you avoid danger, and even failure. They are committed to not only yours but also the unit's safety and success. And they will see you through tough times.

GUEST COMMENTARY

"PAYING ATTENTION"

IS MORE THAN KEEPING YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD

We have reached that time of the year when our activities have risen significantly. Last month, several of you travelled to the Group 5 SAREX, the Cadet Conference, MARSAR, the Maryland Emergency Management SAREX, and Tri-Wing Encampment Training. Moreover, your dedication to support your squadron's activities put you behind the wheel of a CAP Van or your personal vehicle. Bottom line: you're on the road a lot more and with summer fast approaching, National Cadet Special Activities, Cook Details, Pathfinder, and Encampments mean more time behind the wheel.

Whether you are on the road for several hours, or taking multiple short trips, distractions will be ever-present and their consequences can be very costly. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), distracted driving was the cause behind 315,167 injuries and 3,208 fatalities in 2024. Distracted driving violations increased by 48% in early 2024, with device manipulation (texting, apps) rising by 82% in recent years, despite lower rates of traditional hand-held talking. Young drivers are particularly at risk, with drivers aged 15-20 having the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.

HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN HELP REDUCE DISTRACTED DRIVING:

- Put your phone away: The simplest solution is to put your phone on silent and out of reach.
- Prepare before you drive: Set your GPS, music, and climate controls before you put your car in drive.
- Avoid multitasking: Don't eat, drink, or groom yourself while driving.
- Speak up: If you're a passenger and the driver is distracted, offer to help or ask them to focus on the road.
- Phones: Many phones have a "Do Not Disturb" feature that can be activated while driving, and there are apps that can block calls and texts. If you must use your phone, pull over and park to send texts or make calls.
- Parents: Talk to your new drivers before they hit the road about the dangers and consequences of distracted driving.

By working together and following these simple steps, we can

make our roads safer for everyone.

FOCUS ON PASSENGER VAN SAFETY

At the end of this month, we will start our 101 Days of Summer campaign (to be covered in the next newsletter). With our increased presence on the roads (along with everyone else doing the same thing), it is essential for us to review some safety tips covering Passenger Vans.

- Tires must be in good condition and proper inflation.
- Only experienced drivers should operate a 12 or 15 passenger van.
- A loaded van can be 1500 to 2000 pounds heavier than an empty van just in passenger weight. When possible, cargo should be placed under seats to distribute weight evenly between the axles.
- Stopping distance increases, due to weight. Leave a larger gap to the vehicle in front of you and use a longer distance to slow down to save on brake fade.
- Increased center of gravity makes roll-over a greater possibility. Evasive maneuvers at highway speeds are extremely dangerous. Do NOT swerve at highway speeds unless you have no choice. It is always better to try to stop in a straight line than it is to risk a rollover. This is especially true when encountering wildlife. Repairing the front of a van due to an animal strike will always be safer than a potential rollover with 15 people inside.
- Always load passengers from the front to the back. If a van is not at capacity, the rear seats should be kept empty for weight distribution between the axles.
- Inspect seatbelts for wear and operation. Seatbelts must be worn by ALL passengers.
- In poor weather, an empty van can be more dangerous than a loaded van. Having minimal weight on a large vehicle makes it prone to skid in rain and snow. Slow down during poor weather, loaded or empty.

Whether you are on the road for several hours, or taking multiple short trips, distractions will be ever-present and their consequences can be very costly.

Drivers are encouraged to go through the briefing on CAP Passenger Van Safety found in eServices -> Online Learning -> Learning Management System -> Available Courses: Safety -> Passenger Van Safety Awareness Program.

Article by: Lt Col RC "Archie" DeJesus Gp5/CC

