

New Assignment - Air Force Test Center

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Permanent Change of Station

"KNOW BEFORE YOU GO"

SAFETY PHAMPLET

Prepare For Your PCS

Keeping Safety

In Mind



Compiled By: Jonathan Moore – Air Force Test Center – Chief of Occupational Safety

Introduction:

Congratulations on your assignment to the Air Force Test Center. This guide provides you with safety information and resources to assist you and your family to stay safe while at work and play.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE TEST CENTER (AFMC)
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE CALIFORNIA**

12 Aug 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR AFTC/All Personnel

FROM: AFTC/CC

SUBJECT: Statement of Safety Policy

1. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force has tasked us all to 'Accelerate Change or Lose'. Testing the world's most advanced systems and supporting the test mission exposes us to additional risk, but we must continually identify, assess, and mitigate the risks associated with our mission and our off-duty activities.
2. Experience shows there are several safety truths:
 - a. A well-led, disciplined team that knows the rules and follows them will most likely achieve mission success without injury or damage.
 - b. Bad things that happen are sometimes unavoidable (eg. equipment failure, severe weather...); however, most bad things that happen are a result of bad assumptions, discipline failures, complacency, or poor prioritization – which are all preventable.
 - c. Excessive speed, inappropriate alcohol consumption, and failure to follow safety guidelines or use proper safety equipment are all recipes for disaster.
3. My safety expectations:
 - a. Everyone must practice risk management, use mature judgement, self-discipline and common sense in all your decisions both on and off-duty.
 - b. Everyone must be aggressive in identifying unnecessary risks.
 - c. Any person who makes a mistake while trying to follow the rules or trying to do the right thing should have leadership's support; however, any person who knowingly fails to follow the rules will have leadership's attention.
4. Safety is a team sport. I challenge each of you to uphold the safety protocols in your work area and build new ones if they are needed. Let's make sure safety is at the core of the AFTC's culture to ensure we can meet the CSAF's challenge safely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Evan C Dertien".

EVAN C. DERTIEN, Major General, USAF
Commander



Traffic Safety: Traffic laws in California may differ from other States. Please check with the California DMV for specifics.

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/>



Unfortunately, motor vehicle accidents occur on and off the installation. Speed limits on the installation are set for the safety of all drivers, Speed limits are enforced and violating them can lead to mishaps and loss of driving privileges.

High winds occur frequently in the area of Edwards AFB. Driving in these conditions can be challenging. Blowing sand and dust can lead to very poor visibility. If you see the giant plumes of brown and tan dirt flying through the air, avoid the area and use a different route to your destination.

Learn defensive driving techniques to lower your risk of a vehicle accident.

<https://gosafelyca.org/>

Motorcycle Safety:



Air Force policy states that all Military members intending to operate motorcycles on a roadway must possess a valid motorcycle license, endorsement or learners permit.

Military members will attend motorcycle safety training at specific time intervals.

https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_se/publication/dafi91-207/dafi91-207.pdf

The Air Force Safety Center is an excellent resource for motorcycle safety information.

<https://www.safety.af.mil/Divisions/Occupational-Safety-Division/Air-Force-Rider/>

Please contact the 412th Test Wing Safety Office for specific Edwards AFB information at: (661) 277-SAFE (7233).

Emergency Preparedness: Disaster preparedness is a necessary part of life in California. It is important to make sure that the entire family is prepared and informed in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Familiarize yourself with local emergency procedures. Make a plan for natural and manmade disasters and remain ready at any time. One of the primary emergency situations that you should prepare for is Earthquakes. Because of Edwards AFB location, the area is prone to Earthquakes at any time of year.



Emergency Management can provide you awareness information. You can contact them at (661) 277-4433 or view their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsEmergencyManagement/>

Make a family plan and a kit – for ideas, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/>

Wildfires are also common in California.



- Being ready for wildfire starts with maintaining an adequate defensible space around your home
- Create a plan with your family to evacuate your home should wildfire strike. Put together an emergency supply kit
- Give your household the best chance of surviving a wildfire by being ready to go and evacuating early. Being ready to go also means knowing when to evacuate and what to do if you become trapped

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/prepare>



Extreme Wildlife: Rattlesnakes. There are 7 species of rattlesnakes in California: western diamondback, sidewinder, speckled, western, red diamond, Mohave, and Panamint. To distinguish rattlesnakes from harmless native snakes, remember rattlesnakes have a distinct, triangular-shaped head, and usually have rattles at the end of their tail.

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=47686&inline=1>

For more information on wildlife, you may encounter on Edwards AFB, Contact the 412 CEG/CEVA – Natural Resources at:
412ceg.ceva.naturalresources@us.af.mil



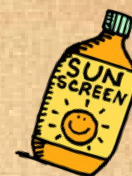
Simple precautions, such as keeping doors and screens secured, keeping garbage and pet food in secured containers, and removing surrounding vegetation may make a building less attractive to snakes. Remember, keeping the rodent population in and around your yard under control is an excellent way to discourage snakes of all kinds. <https://edwards.isportsman.net/EducationalResources.aspx>

Desert Hiking Safety: Summer months in the desert are known to be dangerous with temperatures regularly reaching triple digits throughout the day. The general rule of thumb in the desert is to hike early in the morning. Never hike alone and let others know where you will be hiking and the times you will be hiking.

With minimal shade, soaring temperatures, and a lack of natural water, the desert is an environment that's harsh like no other. Packing more water than you think you'll need is crucial to staying properly hydrated and avoiding the dangers of heat stroke. Wearing proper clothing and sun protection in the desert is paramount to ensuring you stay safe on your route. As far as sun protection goes, sunglasses, sunscreen, floppy sun hats, and loose fitting synthetic clothes will help keep you as cool as possible, while also ensuring your body stays safe from the scorching desert sun.

Hiking through the desert, you often need a sharp eye to spot any potential dangers on the trail. Scorpions, tarantulas, poisonous lizards, and rattlesnakes are masters at blending into desert landscapes, and can all be potentially deadly. <https://thetrek.co/the-beginners-guide-to-desert-hiking/>

Heat/Sun Safety: The deserts of California during summer often see excessive temperatures in the triple digits and high UV indexes.



Excessive sun exposure can be hazardous to your health due to extreme heat and contact with ultraviolet (UV) rays. Dangerously high temperatures can lead to heat stress which can cause heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heat rashes.

Drink water before, during, and after physical activity. Make hydrating a priority – carry a water bottle to drink on the go.

Use sunscreen with at least Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 15 or higher year round. Apply sunscreen liberally 20 minutes before sun exposure.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/sun/exposure/recommendations.html>

Beach Safety: California's waters offer outdoor sports enthusiasts a wide choice of recreational activities. Unfortunately, water-related activities sometimes lead to tragedy.



Not all beaches along the California coastline are recommended for swimming or wading. The very things that make these areas such spectacular places to look at and enjoy can be lethal to those caught unaware along the shoreline.

Large surf, cold water temperatures, backwash, sudden drop-offs, pounding shorebreak, and dangerous rip currents can turn what seems like safe activities such as playing near the surf line, wading, swimming, or climbing on rock outcroppings, deadly.

There is limited lifeguard service along some portions of the coast. Check with on-duty park staff about the ocean conditions. https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23792



Traffic Safety: Traffic laws in Tennessee may differ from other States. Please check with Tennessee Driver Services for specifics.

<https://www.tn.gov/driver-services.html>

Unfortunately, motor vehicle accidents occur on and off the installation. Speed limits on the installation are set for the safety of all drivers, Speed limits are enforced and violating them can lead to mishaps and loss of driving privileges.

Wildlife in Rural Tennessee.



Stay alert. Pay attention to "deer crossing" and "wildlife crossing" signs and be cautious in areas near woods or water.

Observe the speed limit,"
"That's because driving a slower speed gives you more time to brake safely.

Other Tips:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/drive-safely-give-wildlife-brake>

Motorcycle Safety:



Air Force policy states that all Military members intending to operate motorcycles on a roadway must possess a valid motorcycle license, endorsement or learners permit.

Military members will attend motorcycle safety training at specific time intervals.

https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_se/publication/dafi91-207/dafi91-207.pdf

The Air Force Safety Center is an excellent resource for motorcycle safety information.

<https://www.safety.af.mil/Divisions/Occupational-Safety-Division/Air-Force-Rider/>

Please contact the AEDC Safety Office for specific Arnold AFB information at: (931)-454-4495.

Emergency Preparedness: The Coffee County Hazard Mitigation Committee identified Wind Events as the County's highest risk priority, followed by Tornadoes as the second highest risk priority.

Historically, severe storm wind events occur about five times a year in Coffee County.

Historically, hail events occur about twice a year in Coffee County.



Check with your supervisor and know the shelter locations while on Arnold AFB.

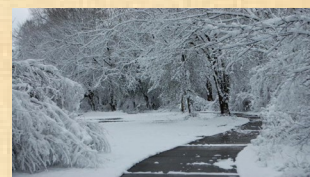
Always be aware of changing weather conditions and approaching storms.

Resources:

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/tornado>

The Coffee County Hazard Mitigation Committee identified Winter Weather Events as the County's third highest risk. Coffee County usually experiences one major winter storm event every 2 years.



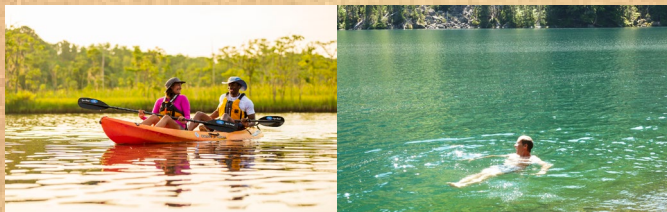
When caught in a winter storm, there are life-saving actions you can take to protect yourself outside, in a vehicle and inside your home or office.

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter-during>

Additional winter safety information can be found on the following web site:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm.html>

Water Activities Safety: Water activities are very popular at Arnold AFB. Know and follow the laws and regulations when engaging in these activities.



- Always let someone know where you are and what time you are expected home
- Do not dive into the water
- Choose swimming areas carefully
- Always swim with a buddy and in supervised areas, preferably ones with a lifeguard on duty
- Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming or boating
- Know the local weather conditions and forecast before swimming or boating.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/water-safety>

Extreme Wildlife: This part of Tennessee has venomous snakes: Eastern Copperhead, Timber Rattler and the Northern Copperhead.



If you enjoy the outdoors by hiking, Kayaking, biking, fishing, and hunting, chances are you will encounter a snake.

Snakes are fascinating to view from a distance but are due respect and space. Most venomous snake bites occur, while trying to handle or kill a venomous snake.

Always be aware of your surroundings and avoid areas where snakes maybe hiding. Avoid putting hands under logs and under rocks. Wear boots and long pants for added protection if you are going where snakes are located. Avoid contact with a snake, and do not try to kill it. Contact a professional for immediate assistance in snake removal.

To learn more about the wildlife in the area:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/places/coffee-county#taxon=26036>

Heat/Sun Safety: Yes, even in Tennessee during the summer can see excessive temperatures, high humidity and high UV indexes.



Excessive sun exposure can be hazardous to your health due to extreme heat and contact with ultraviolet (UV) rays. Dangerously high temperatures can lead to heat stress which can cause heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heat rashes.

Drink water before, during, and after physical activity. Make hydrating a priority – carry a water bottle to drink on the go.

Use sunscreen with at least Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 15 or higher year-round. Apply sunscreen liberally 20 minutes before sun exposure.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/sunexposure/recommendations.html>

Hunting Safety: Hunting is very popular in Tennessee. Knowing the laws and safety protocols will keep you safe while hunting.



Every person born on or after January 1, 1969, before hunting, shall possess, in addition to all other licenses and permits required, proof of satisfactory completion of an agency-approved hunter education course.

Some important tips for safety are:

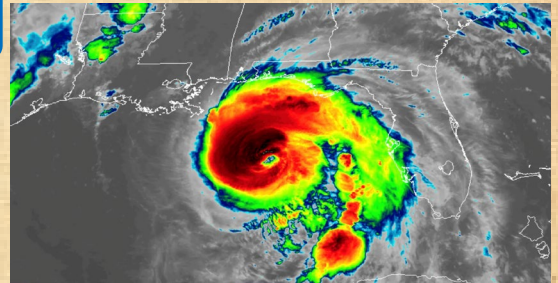
- Get proper education
- Practice the skills needed
- Follow state guidelines for wearing hunter orange
- Always point the firearm in a safe direction
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target

<https://www.tn.gov/twra/hunting.html>



Emergency Preparedness: Disaster preparedness is a necessary part of life in Florida. It is important to make sure that the entire family is prepared and informed in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Familiarize yourself with local emergency procedures. Make a plan for natural and manmade disasters and remain ready at any time. One of the primary emergency situations that you should prepare for is Hurricanes. The season is from 1 Jun – 30 Nov.



Eglin AFB web page and video for Hurricane preparedness:

<https://www.eglin.af.mil/About-Us/Hurricane-Season/>

Make a family plan and a kit – for ideas, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/>

Resource: National Hurricane Center
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Lightning is also a very common occurrence. Florida is the “Lightning Capital of the U.S.”

When lightning is in your vicinity, go quickly inside a completely closed building.

Do not consider carports, open garages, covered patios, or pavilions as adequate shelter.

If no closed building is convenient, get inside a hard-topped all-metal vehicle.

Do not take shelter under a tree, especially if it is tall and isolated.

Get out of the water. This includes pools, lakes, rivers, oceans, water rides, and even puddled water. Get off the beach.

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>

Traffic Safety: Traffic laws in Florida may differ from other States. Please check with Florida Motor Vehicles for specifics.

<https://www.flhsmv.gov/>

Unfortunately, motor vehicle accidents occur on and off the installation. Speed limits on the installation are set for the safety of all drivers, Speed limits are enforced and violating them can lead to mishaps and loss of driving privileges.

Road flooding does occur in the Eglin AFB area. Driving in these conditions can be dangerous.



When you encounter a flooded roadway, do not attempt to enter the roadway or cross it. “Turn Around-Don’t Drown”

Learn defensive driving techniques to lower your risk of a vehicle accident.

<https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/driving-safety/>

Motorcycle Safety:



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Military members will attend motorcycle safety training at specific time intervals.

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The Air Force Safety Center is an excellent resource for motorcycle safety information.

<https://www.safety.af.mil/Divisions/Occupational-Safety-Division/Air-Force-Rider/>

Please contact the 96th Test Wing Safety Office for specific Eglin AFB information at: (850) 882-2540, Ext. 3.

Boating Safety: In order to operate a motorboat of ten (10) horsepower or greater, Florida law requires anyone who was born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 to successfully complete an approved boating safety course and obtain a Boating Safety Education Identification Card issued by the FWC.



Did you know that Florida has the unfortunate distinction of being the national leader in annual boating fatalities? A majority of fatalities every year are boaters who fall overboard and drown. These deaths can be easily prevented by wearing a lifejacket.

File a Float Plan – Let family and friends know where you are going and when you expect to return. The sooner rescuers can locate an overdue boater, the more likely the outcome will be positive.

Designate a sober driver – About a quarter of all boating accidents are alcohol or drug related.

<https://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/safety-tips/>

Scuba Diving Safety: Being prepared for diving requires a little homework and responsibility on your part. Along with this come certain precautions you must practice avoiding the inherent hazards.

As divers, the first priority is always safety. It is more important than any other consideration because when it's lacking, people can get hurt or die. Dive accidents are often both personal and community tragedies that affect those involved, families and friends.

These simple rules will enable you to have a good time safely in the water:

- Have a dive certification through a recognized organization such as: PADI, NAUI, BSAC, etc.
- Know and obey local dive laws and regulations
- Know the tide conditions
- Plan your dive and dive your plan. Know where you are going to go and know what you are going to do once you get in the water
- Never dive alone
- Use complete, well-maintained, reliable equipment with which you are familiar

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/safe-swimming-diving>

Heat/Sun Safety: Florida is the Sunshine State and during summer often see excessive temperatures, high humidity and high UV indexes.



Excessive sun exposure can be hazardous to your health due to extreme heat and contact with ultraviolet (UV) rays. Dangerously high temperatures can lead to heat stress which can cause heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heat rashes.

Drink water before, during, and after physical activity
Make hydrating a priority – carry a water bottle to drink on the go.

Use sunscreen with at least Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 15 or higher year-round. Apply sunscreen liberally 20 minutes before sun exposure.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/sunexposure/recommendations.html>

Beach Safety: When at any beach in Florida, it's important to understand Beach Safety. Florida is known for rip currents, lightning, sharks, jellyfish, and sunburns. Being prepared can not only save your life, but it can also protect you from painful occurrences.



Some important tips for safety are:

- Pay attention to the beach flags
- Use the buddy system and don't swim alone
- Swim in areas where a lifeguard is present
- Always be aware of the potentially dangerous sea life that exists
- Stay updated on local algae, red tide and other potential water hazards
- Watch for storms and lightning
- Stay hydrated and wear and re-apply sunscreen often activities

<https://www.floridasmart.com/articles/florida-beach-safety-guide>