

New Assignment - Air Force Test Center

*Inside:
Introduction
Edwards AFB.....1-2*



Permanent Change of Station

**"KNOW BEFORE YOU GO"
SAFETY GUIDE**

**Prepare For Your PCS
Keeping Safety
In Mind**



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Introduction:

Congratulations on your assignment to Edwards AFB. This guide provides safety information and resources to assist you and your family at this new duty station 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



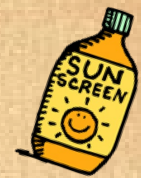
Simple precautions, such as keeping doors and screens secured, keeping garbage and pet food in secured containers, and removing surrounding vegetation may make a building less attractive to snakes. Remember, keeping the rodent population in and around your yard under control is an excellent way to discourage 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/sunexposure/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