



# **SEMPER SAFE**



**“SPRING INTO SAFETY...SAFELY”**

Spring has arrived. It's time to break out all the outside equipment and activities, yard work, spring cleaning, getting back to nature, sporting events, new exercise programs, or a back yard barbeque. Think about risk management, what are the risks of the activities you are about to engage in, how can I avoid potential problems and dangers, eliminate costs, pick the best time, and how will it impact my personal life and duty status? If you don't prevent a mishap, you could easily become a mishap statistic. The good news is mishaps always happen to "the other guy." The bad news is, to everyone else, you are "the other guy."

The weather is getting nicer and after being cooped up all winter it's time to enjoy or work outdoors, open the windows and air out, and watch mother nature begin anew. Common sense will help us to do what needs to be done correctly as long as we are familiar with the task at hand. No matter what your activity, remind yourself and others that common sense needs refreshing. Personal common sense cannot always be relied upon, so remember your on-duty safety awareness training and apply it to off-duty activities too. Check out the following tips to remember.

- Warmer weather brings thunder and lightning, tornadoes, and flooding. Lightning strikes the ground 15 to 20 million times each year in the United States resulting in over 3,000 injuries and deaths. Over 1,000 tornadoes in the United States hit in the spring causing massive destruction, thousands of injuries and hundreds of fatalities. Flooding from heavy rains and spring thaws bring devastation and chaos. The weather determines your activity.
- Lawn and garden equipment are the leading reportable cause for over 400,000 emergency room visits each year in the U.S. Read the owner's manual and use the recommended protective equipment such as hearing protection and safety glasses. These safety tips that are supplied with the lawn and garden equipment to avoid embarrassing and painful injuries.
- Another year older and wiser, spring brings out the youth in us all, baseball, soccer, tennis, hikes, ATVs, motorcycles, bicycles, jogging, boating, camping, ladder climbing, starting a garden, etc. Keep in mind those Recreational Off-duty Safety (RODS) briefs you will be receiving to heighten your personal safety awareness in all of your activities.
- Use proper personal protective equipment for whatever endeavor you are about to partake in.
- Plan your events by preparing for the time to ensure your Spring and Summer is fun...safely.

Get enthused about safety and share your experiences, misfortunes, not so great moments, it-only-happens-to-me times, and all those other embarrassing times with your unit, leaders, family members and loved ones. Common sense is a learned process. Make the appropriate risk management decision off-duty as you would on-duty. Avoid becoming a statistic. Remember, to everyone else you are "The Other Guy."

**Leaders and Supervisors:** It is your duty and responsible to ensure your personnel understand how important it is to be always safe. For more information contact your Unit Safety Officer or Base Safety Representative.

***Remember Marines, we live by our ethos***