



September 2019



# The Safety Chain

Kentucky Wing CAP  
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December 2019

January 2020 is almost here, and it is almost time for all units to fulfill the “Annual Safety Risk Management Day.” Here are a few ground rules. The annual Safety Day is to be completed by all Kentucky units no later than 31 January 2020. This is the Kentucky wing commander’s deadline. This activity must be recorded in SIRS, so, be sure to click **yes** where it asks you if this is your “annual ORM familiarization, and click **yes** when you are asked if this is your Annual Safety Day. The Safety Day is the one day that is devoted entirely to safety and risk management. This is to be the only topics of discussion. You can either devoted a separate day outside of your regular meetings or make it one of your regular meetings.

There are three mandatory items, and a fourth item tailored to the needs of your unit. The mandatory items can be found on the Safety page:

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/cap-national-hq/safety/annual-safety-risk-management-day---2019>) The three items are the “[Video Briefing form the National Commander](#),” the video briefing “[What You need to Know About Risk Management](#),” and the PowerPoint briefing “[Common Mistakes and How You Can Prevent Them](#).” The fourth item needed for your Safety Day should be tailored to need the needs of your unit. For example, flying squadrons should be reviewing Cold Weather Aircraft Operations, ground units may want to review cold weather operations as it pertains to ground teams and other outdoor activities. Your unit may want to review the mishaps which happened in your unit and how these mishaps will be prevented in the future.

Christmas is fast approaching. By now most of us probably have put up decorations both inside the house and outside. Christmas decorations are maybe used for a month and then stored away for another year. Take a few minutes and inspect the electrical wiring for lighting and other electrically operated decorations. The insulation does not last forever. Outside it is best to use double insulated wiring. Look for cracks in the insulation. Don’t just look at the wiring, bend the wire and see if you can spot any cracks in the insulation. If you find any cracks it is better to replace the lighting or other devices as opposed to just putting electrical tape over the breaks. If the insulation cracks in one place you can be sure dry rot has affect all of the insulation. Yes, even electrical wiring can dry rot for the same reasons as the tires on your vehicle.

This is also a good time to inspect any snow removal equipment you may use this coming winter. Perform an inspection to determine that the operation is safe. If you have a gasoline operated motor on your snow blower be sure to check its operation outside in fresh air. Ensure you are storing extra gasoline in an approved container, and never refill the fuel tank until after the engine has sufficiently cooled. For electrically operated snow blowers perform the same electrical wiring checks as you do for all electrical cords.

One last note, if you use an extension cord inside of your house, use an approved cover mat for preventing trip hazards. You should be able purchase these at your local hardware store. And above all, do not use throw rugs for covering extension cords for preventing trip hazards. Throw rugs tend to cause premature failure of extension cords over time.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Remember, the completion date for the "Annual Safety Risk Management Day" is 31 January 2020 and this activity must be properly recorded in SIRS.

If you need assistance please feel free to call at 812.207-5350.

*Semper Vigilans*