



The Safety Beacon is for informational purposes. Unit safety officers are encouraged to use the articles in the Beacon as topics for their monthly safety briefings and discussions. Members may also go to LMS, read the Beacon, and take a quiz to receive credit for monthly safety education.

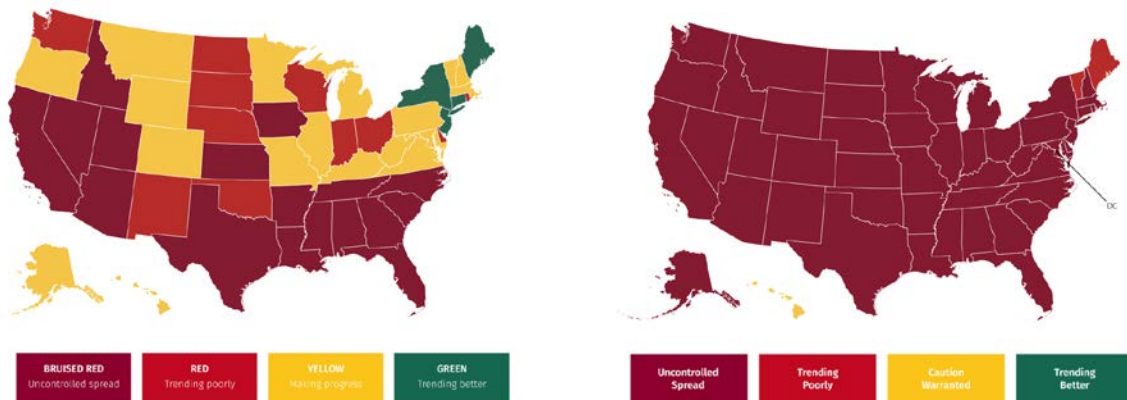
November 2020

Home for the Holidays? Don't Let Your Guard Down

George Vogt, CAP/SE

The Beacon is back after a couple months' hiatus while we focused all our efforts on conducting a totally virtual National Safety Officer College. You can read more about NSOC in this Beacon.

First let's keep our focus on the current COVID crisis. I know you're tired of hearing about it ... COVID fatigue sets in and we just "wish it was over." That is one of the hazards that comes with any large-scale risk, or any difficult on-going mission or task ... there is a tendency to get weary and let our guard down. There are other things we'd rather be doing, even though they may be fraught with risk. That's the situation we find ourselves in now ... we'd all like to forget about COVID and enjoy the holidays with traditional large gatherings and travel, and that increases the risk of COVID spread.



Both maps are from the website called covidexitstrategy.org. Our National CAP COVID-19 Team monitors this website. The map on the left was July when things were pretty bad. The map on the right is earlier this week in mid-November, approaching the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The maroon color reflects "uncontrolled spread." **ALL CAP and CDC COVID risk controls (masks, distancing, handwashing, etc.) are more important than ever!**

We'll discuss a few holiday safety precautions, as well as some other topics, in this Beacon.

Stay informed, follow all the recommended risk controls, and stay well.

safety@capnhq.gov

Holiday Risk Management

George Vogt, CAP/SE

Thanksgiving Gatherings? Read CDC Recommendations

As noted on our first page, and all over the news, the COVID-19 crisis is now in its worst stages, with uncontrolled spread in most states. From a risk management perspective, until the vaccines are approved and administered, the primary defenses we have are the personal risk controls recommended by the CDC. Recent studies show the face mask is even more effective than originally thought at helping slow the spread. Social distancing is a must. The CDC notes that any gathering with people that aren't members of your immediate household (people you live with) can dramatically increase the spread of the virus.

That means recommendations to avoid the traditional extended-family and friends gatherings that take place over the holidays.

For those having a hard time making that decision or looking for ways to reduce the risk of whatever plans they are making for the Thanksgiving holiday, the CDC has some recommendations. Go to the [CDC Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings](#) webpage to get all the up-to-date data on how you can minimize the risk of catching or spreading the coronavirus during the holidays.

Winterizing your life!

The first signs of winter are showing up all over the country with snow in the north and the first frosts coming to the southern states.

COVID may be taking our minds off some of the normal winter and holiday hazards associated with the colder weather, icy roads, winter fire hazards, impaired or distracted driving, and other risk factors. Make sure you, your fellow members, and your families are aware of winter risks and what you can do to reduce mishaps.

Check on friends, and family, and neighbors! With social distancing, and reduced travel, we simply forget about some of our elderly neighbors, our friends who may be home alone, or others who may not be as fortunate as we are. **Make it part of your holiday plan to check in on someone each day ... keep that conversation and caring alive.** Think of some way you can help someone or extend a kindness. Safety begins with being aware of your surroundings and caring for the people around you. Make a point of caring, and you will be practicing the most basic form of risk management; asking what is the worst thing that can happen, then trying to prevent it.

For more tips on holiday and winter safety, check out the [Air Force Safety Center's Winter Safety](#) page ... lots of great topics.

safety@capnhq.gov

New Safety Education Pages

Resources for every safety officer

George Vogt, CAP/SE

What's the "purpose" of CAP's monthly safety education? We can start by asking what it is NOT.

Monthly safety education is **not** a square filler. It is **not** a quick sign-off on a *warning* to drive safely or fly safely. Here's part of what CAPR 160-1 says it should be:

"... the learning and understanding of RM, in the context of the CAP SMS."

"... should reinforce RM knowledge while providing examples of RM in analyzing common hazards and controlling risk."

To accomplish this, CAPR 160-1 makes it clear that **the in-person meeting with open discussion is the preferred method of receiving monthly safety education** (may be accomplished virtually). That is true for *every* type of unit, including Command staffs. It is important that members learn how to work as a team to use risk management skills in their missions and activities. The role of the safety officer in monthly safety education is to teach those skills in the context of our missions and activities. It's fine to talk about common mishaps, or flying hazards, but the key is *learning* the risk management *processes* to help avoid those hazards or reduce the risks. Don't just *tell* them what to do, *teach* them how.

New Safety Education Pages are here to help!

Check out the [Safety Education Resources](#) page on the CAP website. You'll find comprehensive training on how to build an effective safety education briefing, complete with briefing templates. The students of the recent NSOC class used this training to create safety education briefings, and some of those will be posted for other members to use for meeting or for ideas for new briefings. Send your briefings to us so we can share them too!

You'll also find a [huge listing of reputable and reliable websites](#) to find information for creating your safety briefings. You can click [HERE](#) for a quick look at those resources or go to the webpage and click on the links.

In the rare event that you are not able to make it to a meeting to receive your monthly safety education, the Safety Education Resources page also offers reminders on a couple other ways you can stay in touch with risk management and safety with a monthly update.

Remember, it is a regulatory requirement for every unit to provide their members with monthly safety education, and **the preferred method of doing that is to provide an in-person briefing.**

Check out the new resources!

SAFETY EDUCATION RESOURCES

Monthly Safety Education is the key to helping ALL members understand and apply risk management processes to assess hazards and control risk in a wide variety of scenarios

Every unit safety officer is required to provide their members with a safety education briefing each month. The in-person briefing (or virtual meeting) is the preferred method, according to CAPR 160-1. This webpage provides resources you can use to create meaningful presentations that will reinforce member understanding of risk management processes, educate members on the CAP safety program, and help members feel comfortable and confident using risk management in their CAP activities and in their daily lives. There is training on how to research and produce a PowerPoint safety briefing, and links to a variety of safety websites to help your research. There will be briefings created and shared by other CAP safety officers. There is also information on other options for those members who are occasionally unable to attend a monthly safety briefing. If you need any assistance, check with your wing or region director of safety, or contact us at SAFETY@CAPNHQ.GOV.

Creating a Safety Education Briefing:

This training will guide you through the process of researching and creating your own safety briefing. You can also share this briefing with your senior members and cadets to broaden their skills and create a team approach to safety education.

[Click HERE to access "Creating a Safety Education Briefing."](#)

[Click HERE for a PowerPoint template to create a briefing in 16:9 format.](#)

[Click HERE for a PowerPoint template to create a briefing in 4:3 format.](#)

A Page FULL of Links to Lots of Safety Webpages!

[CLICK HERE to go to our own page full of links to other safety pages.](#) This page provides links to government and industry safety pages, FULL of valuable and reliable information for your safety briefings and discussions.

Shared Briefings From Other CAP Safety Officers:

** Still under development ** - This link will take you to a webpage with briefings created and shared by other CAP members.

Safety Shorts

Any Ideas for Regulation Changes?

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we conduct an annual review of all our regulations to see if there are any areas where we need to make improvements. The Safety regulations (CAPR 160-1 and CAPR 160-2) have been in place for just over a year, and we are gathering ideas for small changes that will make the regulations easier to understand, or streamline processes, or eliminate needless requirements.

You want to help? Drop us a line to make suggestions. We ask that you use [CAPF 11](#) to submit your ideas ... that form gives you room to spell out your suggestion and explain why it's needed. Fill out the form and attach it to your e-mail. Send it our way at safety@capnhq.gov.

While you're at it, take a look at CAPP 163, *Safety Assurance & Continuous Improvement*, and the Risk Assessment forms, CAPF 160, 160S and 160HL. Suggestions?

Now's your chance to let us know!

CAP Safety Facebook Group

Just a reminder for our CAP Safety team ... we have a nice Facebook group devoted to discussions about safety, risk management and the CAP safety program. It is open to all CAP members. If you interested, go to Facebook and search for "CAP Safety." You'll be asked to provide you CAP ID so we can verify your membership, and you're in!

I do offer one caution ... this is a friendly and courteous group. We don't get into arguments and we don't get into politics. We keep a close eye on the page, but that also ensures you can get answers to your questions.

Join us!

New Safety Specialty Track Guidance Coming Soon

The replacement for CAPP 217, *Safety Specialty Track*, had been completed to bring guidance in line with the new CAPR 40-1 and to make sure it follows the new safety program, preparing safety officers at every level to perform all their duties. The readings, activities, and service requirements have been updated and tailored to provide the knowledge and skills safety officers need as they progress through their senior member education and training, as well as taking on increasing safety leadership responsibilities.

The pamphlet was developed through the help of an all-member team made of experienced safety officers. A few things were added, and a few were removed. It has resulted in a balanced program, providing some excellent understanding of risk management and safety in all our mission areas without onerous requirements in any one specific mission area.

Stay tuned ... it will be in effect before the end of the year!

safety@capnhq.gov

National Safety Officer College Wrap-up

NSOC 2020 heralded as a great success!

The NEW National Safety Officer College, focusing on the new safety program, was conducted virtually from August 19 through November 4. It included readings, quizzes, assignments and weekly webinars, and gave all students the knowledge, understanding and skills required to become leaders in CAP Safety.

Despite real world challenges, more than 170 members attended the weekly sessions, including CAP leadership and CAP-USAF partners from every region and CAP-USAF HQ. More than 150 members graduated from the course. It is notable that every single wing and region director of safety was enrolled in the course. Now every region and wing can operate their safety programs as teams with a common understanding of the program requirements and the experience of working together with their peers through their NSOC studies.

The final session on November 4 culminated with Maj Gen John Rauch, the Air Force Chief of Safety and Commander of the Air Force Safety Center, delivering inspiring words of encouragement and congratulations to the graduates. Also providing remarks commemorating the graduates' achievements were Maj Gen Mark Smith (CAP/CC), Brig Gen Ed Phelka (CAP/CV), Col Mark Wootan (CAP-USAF Commander) and Chief Master Sergeant Bob Dandridge (CAP Command Chief). Chief Dandridge was also an active participant and graduate of the course!

The NSOC team and a team of students are already looking at ways to improve the next course. We'll continue to update and improve the class assignments and the interaction. We'll look at ways to increase the hands-on training and group discussions that can be challenging when meeting virtually. We'll also look at scheduling options to determine if several concentrated weekends might be more beneficial, and more convenient, than 12 weeks of weekly sessions.

NSOC will remain a requirement for the Master level of the new Safety Specialty Track. It will also continue to be a requirement for all wing and region directors of safety. Wing and region leaders will also be encouraged to attend. We'll continue to refine the course to meet the needs of all of these safety leaders.

For ALL our members, know that you now have CAP safety program experts in every wing. They are your mentors and your guides. If you have any questions about the program, go directly to your wing director of safety to get the answer. If they don't have it, they know where to find us.

Congrats to ALL the NSOC graduates and thanks for being part of the team!