



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX KENTUCKY 40121-5000

**REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:**

ATZK-S (385)

15 AUG 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

1. References:

- a. AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, 15 Oct 90.
- b. TB MED 81, Cold Injury, 30 Sep 76.
- c. FM 31-70, Basic Cold Weather Manual, 12 Apr 68.
- d. TM 10-4500-200-13, Operator's, Organizational and Direct Support Maintenance Manual, 10 Dec 69.
- e. Fort Knox Plan No. 12-00, Snow and Ice Removal Plan.
- f. FM 100-14, Risk Management, 23 Apr 98.
- g. GTA 5-8-12, Individual Safety Card, 2 Dec 02.
- h. USAARMC Reg 40-5, Preventive Medicine, 22 Sep 92.
- i. TM 9-4520-257-12&P, Operator's and Unit Maintenance Manual Heater, Space, Radiant, Large (H-45), 17 Sep 92.
- j. AR 600-55, The Army Driving and Operator Standardization Program, 31 Dec 93.

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

2. The purpose of this campaign is to ensure the safety of soldiers, civilian employees, and family members during the winter season. This campaign targets three areas that generally bring about an increase in accidents and injuries: cold weather, slippery surfaces, and fire/carbon monoxide hazards.

a. Cold weather injuries include trenchfoot, where the symptoms include itching, numbing, or tingling pain with the feet becoming swollen, and turning faintly red, blue, or black; frostbite, where the skin becomes numb, turns gray or waxy-white in color, is cold to the touch, and may feel stiff; hypothermia, which is a medical emergency where the individual may experience confusion, bizarre behavior, and withdrawal from group behavior, and may become unconscious with nearly undetectable breathing and pulse.

b. Slips and falls were the leading cause of winter season injuries at Fort Knox this past year. The greatest number of these occurred on parking lots and sidewalks. When walking surfaces become slippery the first order of business is to clear them of ice and snow; it is also important to conduct risk assessments and communicate the hazards to personnel.

c. Many fires and carbon monoxide incidents can be traced to faulty equipment or maintenance shortfalls. Combine this with a failure to follow procedures, such as sleeping in a vehicle with the windows closed, and the results are often deadly.

3. Success depends on early planning and completion of the actions in paragraph 4 to ensure hazards are identified and risks mitigated. The following key events and actions are critical to making this campaign effective.

a. **Command Information.** The Armor Branch Safety Office will use several resources, i.e., e-mail, the Turret, Armor Center Television, Safety Alerts, safety councils, and the ABSO web page to provide winter safety information in a timely manner. Units and organizations are encouraged to use this information to support and enhance unit safety councils, driver training programs, pre-holiday briefings, and winter-season safety training plans.

b. **Weather Information.** Accurate, timely weather information is essential for use in planning and conducting training and other outdoor activities. The 18th Weather Squadron is responsible for providing cold weather information; they are available 24 hours a day, phone 624-5653/5517. If a snow/ice storm occurs during duty hours, military personnel will remain at their post until released by the Fort Knox Garrison Commander. All civilian employees on post are encouraged to remain at their work site until released. Family members residing on post are encouraged to remain in their homes and monitor channel 98 television for updates on weather and road conditions. Emergency vehicles and emergency support personnel are exempt from these restrictions.

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

c. **Training and Education.** All personnel subject to working or training in environments that could result in cold injuries will receive training NLT 1 Oct 03. This training will include information on the prevention, recognition, and prompt treatment of cold injuries. The Preventive Medicine Office, MEDDAC, conducts cold weather injury prevention classes. Contact them at 624-0507. Train soldiers on cold injury prevention in accordance with master training schedules and programs of instruction. Driver training programs must include hazards that a driver might encounter during the winter season. Include instruction on proper slave/jump starting procedures, tire chain use, and increased stopping distances on ice and snow. Guidance to conduct cold weather injury prevention training is in TB Med 81; training guidance for military equipment and tracked and wheeled vehicles is in AR 600-55. Enforce good diet and water consumption during the winter months; it is as important to cold injury prevention as it is to heat injury prevention.

d. **Vehicle and Equipment Preparation.** Special care must be exercised to ensure vehicles and equipment are prepared for operation in cold weather. Heaters, windshield defrosters, batteries, tires, antifreeze, lubricants and oils, and exhaust systems require special attention. Other equipment, e.g., space heaters, warming barrels, immersion heaters, must be inspected and repaired NLT 1 Oct 03 so that it is ready for use. Order cold-season POL and spare parts for field heating equipment NLT 1 Sep 03.

e. **Snow and Ice Removal.** Driving and walking surfaces, as well as vehicle surfaces, must be cleared of ice and snow. DBOS is responsible for snow/ice removal from streets, range roads, Godman Army Airfield, and selected parking lots; designated streets and removal priorities are in reference 1e, Appendix B. Rock salt for use on roads and parking lots is available in bulk at building 101. A non-salt based ice melting agent for use on steps and sidewalks around family quarters is available at building 72 in 12 pound containers; this same ice melting agent for use in US government buildings can be ordered by contacting DBOS Troop Self Help at 4-7879. Preposition ice melting agent at building entrances NLT 1 Oct 03. Personnel must be cautioned to use extreme care when mounting, dismounting, or walking on vehicles; first line leaders will place greater emphasis on the 3-point contact rule to prevent slips and falls.

f. **Fire Prevention.** Use of nonstandard heaters requires approval from the DBOS Fire Prevention and Protection Division. Heating devices must be inspected and, if necessary, repaired well before the start of heating season. Faulty equipment and maintenance shortfalls are a factor in many winter fires. Spare parts must be on-hand to repair faulty equipment. Personnel must be trained on the proper setup, refueling, and operation of field stoves and immersion heaters by a qualified person from the unit NLT 1 Oct 03; training guidance is in AR 600-55 and TM 10-4500-200-13. Fire reporting procedures, fire extinguisher operation, and emergency evacuation drills must also be part of the overall fire prevention plan. The Fort Knox Fire Department will assist with fire prevention training, fire extinguisher operator training, and

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

evacuation drills; contact them at 4-6016. Housing Division will ensure all fireplaces in Fort Knox family housing are inspected NLT 30 Sep 03 and repaired and cleaned as necessary.

g. **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention.** Faulty equipment and falling asleep in a vehicle with the engine running are the primary causes of carbon monoxide poisoning. Proper ventilation is the key to preventing CO injuries and deaths. The Fort Knox policy is that no one will sleep in a vehicle with the engine running, or sit in a closed, unventilated vehicle with the engine running. Commanders will ensure equipment and vehicle ventilation and exhaust systems are inspected and repaired NLT 1 Oct 03. Training must address sleeping policies; and first line leaders will enforce the Fort Knox policy concerning personnel in vehicles with the engine running.

h. **Field Heaters.** Commercial portable heating devices used in field training and operations expose personnel to both a fire hazard and hazards from carbon monoxide, sulfur, carbon and nitrogen dioxide and propane. If not properly vented, even low concentrations of these poisonous gasses may cause death. Therefore, nonstandard or locally purchased heaters will not be used. The only approved heaters are those listed in paragraph 1d and i above, the Army's new Family of Space Heaters (FOSH), and those installed as part of an approved DBOS or Corps of Engineers construction project. The following applies to the use of all field heating devices:

(1) Heaters will be set up per appropriate technical and operator manuals by competent individuals familiar with leak test procedures. An inspection by the unit fire marshal or safety officer will be performed before use.

(2) Only heaters with a ventilation system that is compatible with the shielded tent vent stack openings will be used in areas where personnel sleep. Heaters will be equipped with emergency fuel shut-off and situated on a firm and level fireproof base. A 4-foot area around the heater and vent pipe will be maintained clear of combustible material.

(3) Where applicable, fuel tanks will be located outside the tents or shelters. Fuel lines will be protected from damage; under no circumstances will heaters be operated with fuel line leaks.

(4) Only authorized fuels will be used. Different types of fuel will not be mixed.

(5) Heater operators will be trained, tested, and licensed per reference 1k, chapter 6.

(6) A fireguard will be awake and on duty in tents and areas where field heaters are used. The fireguard will be briefed on watch procedures, fire fighting with appropriate extinguishing agent, fire emergency notification procedures, and early recognition of carbon monoxide poisoning.

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

(7) Heaters will not be operated while unattended.

i. **Cold Weather Gear.** Serviceable, properly fitting clothing and footwear are essential to preventing cold weather injuries. Cold weather gear must be kept clean and dry. Special precautions must be taken with the feet, hands, and face since they are more susceptible to cold injury. Provide adequate protection, dress in layers, and ensure personnel stay dry, e.g., change socks and warm feet as necessary. Unit range safety officers, NCOs, and on-site medical support personnel will continuously oversee and enforce the proper use of cold weather gear.

j. **Risk Management.** Eliminating winter hazards or mitigating risk to the lowest level possible must be a primary consideration. Use the 5-step risk management process in FM 100-14 to identify, assess, and control risks. Commanders will ensure cold weather training includes refresher training for leaders and supervisors on preparation and use of the Fort Knox Risk Management Worksheet, FK Form 5008-E. Steps to mitigate cold injuries will be addressed on FK Form 5008-E.

4. Responsibilities:

a. Armor Branch Safety Office (ABSO).

(1) Provide Public Affairs Office (PAO) with winter safety information for use on Armor Center Television and in the Turret. Begin in August and continue throughout the winter season.

(2) Provide weekly, or as necessary, e-mail safety alerts to keep personnel aware and abreast of critical winter safety issues.

(3) Provide posters, handouts, and information to support unit cold injury prevention programs.

(4) Review unit and organization winter safety plans/programs NLT 30 Sep 03 for completeness; provide assistance and input where necessary.

(5) Inspect range facilities NLT 15 Oct 03 to ensure winterization requirements are complete.

(6) Update progress of the winter safety program at monthly Command and Staff meetings.

(7) Conduct training site inspections when ranges are occupied to ensure cold weather safety requirements are followed; provide feedback to unit commanders.

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

b. Director, Directorate of Base Operations Support (DBOS).

(1) Review Fort Knox Snow and Ice Removal Plan NLT 30 Aug 03 and provide comments and recommendations to G3/DPTM.

(2) Inspect and repair or replace, as necessary, snow/ice removal equipment; and ensure operators are trained and qualified NLT 30 Aug 03.

(3) Order salt/sand for use on driving/walking surfaces NLT 30 Aug 03. Maintain rock salt at building 101 throughout the winter season for self-help issue to troop units.

(4) Stockpile sand NLT 30 Sep 03 for intermediate elimination of hazardous conditions until proper clearance operations can be performed.

(5) Supervise and control all snow and ice removal operations and equipment on streets, range roads, Fort Knox access/egress gates, selected parking lots, and airfield facilities.

(6) Fire Department schedule and conduct fire extinguisher training year around; and conduct a fire prevention campaign which includes exit drills, smoke detector operation, and fire inspections NLT 1 Nov 03.

(7) Identify areas where units can cut firewood for use in warming barrels NLT 1 Oct 03. Call 4-8147 to obtain a permit to cut firewood. Provide chain saw operator training for unit personnel upon request. Units can also contact the Recycle Center at 4-5026 to place an order for firewood.

(8) When TMP buses schedules are cancelled due to road conditions, units may reschedule by calling 624-5453. Buses will make pickups in the order they were originally scheduled.

(9) Inspect and winterize gate-guard facilities at all Fort Knox access/egress points NLT 1 Oct 03.

c. Commander, Law Enforcement Command/Provost Marshal (LEC/PM).

(1) Maintain surveillance of all major road arteries on the Fort Knox reservation and provide input to Garrison Commander to determine road condition classifications. The MP desk sergeant provides current road conditions, phone 624-2111/2112. Concerning range complex roads, G3 Range Division will determine road condition classifications in coordination with the Provost Marshal.

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

(a) GREEN. No restrictions.

(b) AMBER. Proceed with caution. Roads have been cleared or snowfall is light. There may be patches of ice and snow on the roads. Chain requirement is at the discretion of the vehicle commander.

(c) RED. Roads are covered with a thin sheet of ice or snow and are extremely hazardous. Commanders are encouraged to limit travel to mission requirements. Drivers should be selected based on winter driving experience, vehicle operating experience, and the route/distance to meet their mission. Track vehicles will not operate on icy roads or areas considered dangerous by the unit commander.

(d) BLACK. Not considered passable. Only vehicles in support of the installation snow and ice removal operations and those responsible for picking-up emergency essential personnel are authorized on installation roads and streets. Chain requirements for these vehicles are the same as those stipulated for "RED." Vehicles used to support range operations/training are authorized to continue providing support to those units using ranges or returning to garrison. Passenger dismount policy as noted under "RED" will be enforced.

(2) During periods of freezing rain, all traffic on Fort Knox may be restricted to emergency vehicles only. The Fort Knox Garrison Commander in coordination with the Commander LEC/PM will determine if traffic is to be restricted. If traffic is restricted, the Commander LEC/PM will enforce this restriction until Fort Knox streets and roads are considered safe.

(3) On a continuous basis, during duty hours, provide road condition reports to Installation Operations Center (IOC) (4-2707) and DBOS Surface Maintenance Work Control (4-3352). During nonduty hours, report road conditions to the IOC and DBOS Duty Officer.

(4) Provide traffic control assistance to DBOS during snow removal operations. Remove abandoned vehicles that are blocking intersections or otherwise impeding the flow of traffic or snow removal, IAW available contractor/vendor assets.

d. Director, G3/Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization (G3/DPTM).

(1) Coordinate with DBOS to establish priorities for clearing snow/ice from range roads.

(2) During normal duty hours, disseminate to the command, snow clearance and ice control alerts and periodic road condition reports. Provide the PAO with this information for

ATZK-S
SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

broadcast on Armor Center Television, and if required, release to local media travel impacts or delays and closures.

(3) During nonduty hours, ensure the IOC disseminates road condition information to the command. Provide the PAO with this information for broadcast on Armor Center Television.

(4) When road condition classification becomes AMBER, notify the Chief of Staff, Garrison Commander, and the PAO. During nonduty hours, the IOC will do this.

(5) Range Division will winterize all range facilities NLT 30 Sep 03. The following procedures have been long standing at Fort Knox and will be followed:

(a) Fires in warming barrels are permitted during training at ranges and outdoor training areas when the temperature is 45 degrees Fahrenheit or below or when dampness or wind warrants their use. Each bivouac and range site will have sufficient warming barrels to provide for the normal number of personnel using each site. (As a guide, one warming barrel can be used to each 40 persons.)

(b) Fireguards will be posted when stoves or warming barrels are in use. A 55-gallon barrel filled with a mixture of two pounds of calcium chloride per gallon water (to prevent freezing) and a fire bucket will be located adjacent to warming areas and tents. These fire barrels will be kept free of debris and ice and ready for use. Requests for required calcium chloride will be submitted to the DBOS on DA Form 4283 (Facilities Engineering Work Request).

(c) Categories. Winterization of ranges is categorized in the following manner:

1. Category 1. Complete winterization accomplished by erecting tents and installing warming stoves, warming barrels, and fire barrels (55-gallon, calcium chloride treated water). This will be done on ranges/bivouac sites used continuously.

2. Category 2. Partial winterization accomplished by pre-positioning fire barrels, warming barrels, and sandboxes on less frequently used and insecure areas. Using units are responsible for erecting tents and stoves for specific training periods.

3. Category 3. Pre-positioning only warming barrels on infrequently used areas that are occupied for short periods of time.

(d) Units responsible for winterization of ranges will ensure that ranges where tents have been erected are equipped with two stoves per tent. In those areas used solely by the brigade responsible for winterization, the number of warming stoves used will be at the discretion of

ATZK-S
 SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

the commander. When the areas are not in use, the stoves may be removed from tents to preclude theft. Using units will supply their own stoves on all bivouac sites.

(e) Units/organizations performing daily maintenance or owning winterization equipment will take all possible precautionary measures to prevent damage/theft of such equipment, particularly tentage.

(f) Tents and stoves will be installed and operated IAW applicable TM. Supervisors will brief all personnel in the use and safety of stoves, warming barrels, and fire barrels.

(g) Ranges and bivouac sites will be winterized as outlined below. The using unit, as needed, will winterize all ranges and bivouac sites not listed.

WINTERIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>RANGE/AREA</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TENT SITES</u>
<u>1st Armor Training Brigade</u>		
HA-7 Bivouac 17	3	NA
Baum	2	1
St. Vith	2	1
Frazier	3	NA
TA 7S	2	1
TA 5	3	NA
TA 13N	2	1
TA 14	2	1
Bivouac Site 18	3	NA
Bivouac Sites 1 and 2	3	NA
Crane	1	1
Miller	1	1
Ashley Combat Maneuver Course	1	1
Handiboe	1	1
Christensen Hand Grenade	1	2
Pells	1	1
Blair	1	1
Canby	1	1
Clark	1	1
Wood 1 & 2	1	NA
Morgan/Riley	1	1
Challenge Course	1	2

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

Choate Defensive Fire	1	1
George	1	1
Schroeder	1	1
TDC	1	1
<u>16th Cavalry Regiment</u>		
Basham's Area	2	2
Densburger	2	1

Many areas have range supply buildings large enough to be used in lieu of tents. Units desiring to use these facilities must make prior coordination with Range Division, G3/DPTM.

NOTE: Foam Dome located at Yano Range is the responsibility of Range Division.

(h) Units are responsible for providing firewood for their own use on all ranges/training sites. Due to the toxicity of pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its vaporization potential when heated, ammunition boxes and pallets will not, for any reason, be used as firewood. Bulk firewood may be obtained by coordinating with the Recycle Center.

(i) Range Division, G3/DPTM, will conduct periodic inspections to ensure winterization equipment is being properly maintained. Discrepancies noted will be telephonically reported to the responsible brigade. Units will telephonically notify Range Division at 4-2135, of any discrepancies noted upon entering an area.

(6) Review, and update as necessary, Fort Knox Snow and Ice Removal Plan NLT 1 Sep 03.

e. Public Affairs Officer (PAO).

(1) Publish winter safety information in the Turret and broadcast on Armor Center Television.

(2) Broadcast road condition information on Armor Center Television.

(3) Maintain winter notification codes for off-post media advisories.

f. Commander, 18th Weather Squadron.

(1) Issue weather warnings/advisories when:

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

- (a) Two or more inches of precipitation is expected in a 12-hour period.
- (b) Wind chill temperature drops below zero degrees Fahrenheit.
- (c) Temperature drops below 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

(2) Provide hourly update to G3/DPTM when wind chill temperature is below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Outside training will be discontinued when temperature is below minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

g. Commander, MEDDAC.

- (1) Publish cold injury prevention memorandum NLT 15 Sep 03.
- (2) Conduct cold injury prevention classes upon request from units and organizations.
- (3) Investigate all potential cold injury cases and report as required.

(4) Report all hospitalized cold injuries and clusters of nonhospitalized cold injuries to the Office of The Surgeon General, with information copies to the Commander, USAMEDCOM and Armor Branch Safety Office.

h. Commanders/Directors, all units and organizations (includes Active and Reserve Component and other units training on Fort Knox).

(1) Always consider weather and road conditions, fire hazards, and carbon monoxide hazards when conducting risk assessments for winter training activities.

(2) Appoint, and have on orders, a cold injury prevention officer or NCO down to platoon or equivalent level.

(3) Conduct training on cold injury recognition, first aid, and preventive measures NLT 1 Oct 03. Conduct refresher training at least monthly during the cold weather season.

(4) Employ the buddy system; since soldiers do not always recognize or react to their own early symptoms of cold injuries they must be taught to observe their buddies for evidence of overexposure to cold.

(5) Issue soldiers serviceable, properly fitting clothing and footgear for cold weather. Provide civilian employees clothing and footgear in accordance with the negotiated agreement.

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

- (6) Tailor schedules to fit weather conditions by scheduling indoor activities during severely cold weather; provide frequent warm-up breaks when personnel must be outside.
- (7) Identify soldiers with prior cold injuries and attach a 2-inch by 4-inch piece of white engineer tape to their canteen holder; exercise caution in exposing them to hazardous wind chill conditions since they are more susceptible to subsequent cold injuries.
- (8) Investigate and report cold weather injuries to ensure errors are identified and corrected.
- (9) Conduct preventive maintenance on field heating stoves and immersion heaters to ensure they are fully operational NLT 1 Oct 03. Use only authorized heaters operated by trained, licensed personnel.
- (10) Train, test, and license personnel identified to operate field heating equipment NLT 1 Oct 03.
- (11) Remove snow and ice from vehicle windows and surfaces before operating vehicle; clear sidewalks and steps of snow and ice before the start of each work day; and remove icicles, as they accumulate, from eaves above building entrances.
- (12) Preposition ice melting agent at building entrances NLT 1 Oct 03 for use on steps and sidewalks.
- (13) Coordinate with DBOS Forestry Section to cut firewood for use in warming barrels and to train chain saw operators, call 4-8147.
- (14) Ensure R & U NCOs attend required training, which addresses winter issues such as changing heating unit filters and acquiring ice melting agent for use on steps and sidewalks, NLT 1 Oct 03; call 4-7879 to schedule training.
- (15) Ensure holiday season Exodus plan addresses safety issues concerning travel, cold weather, alcohol and drug use, and winter sports activities.
- (16) Develop and submit unit/organization winter safety plan/program for review by ABSO NLT 15 Sep 03.
- (17) Make decisions on the authorization to operate unit government-owned vehicles during periods of increased road condition classification. Road condition classifications are in paragraphs 3c(1)(a-d) of this memorandum. The following decision guidelines apply:

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

(a) AMBER. 0-3 level commanders/directors.

(b) RED/BLACK. 0-5 level commanders/directors.

(18) Family and community safety is part of the winter safety campaign. The following "off-duty" issues must be included in your winter season loss prevention program:

(a) *Snow and Ice Removal From Steps and Sidewalks in Housing Areas.* Pre-position ice-melt in all family housing units, it is available at the DBOS Self Help Store, building 72. Know your limits when shoveling snow and rest often; over exertion can cause strains, sprains, and heart attacks.

(b) *Skiing, Skating and Other Winter Sports.* Lakes and ponds on Fort Knox and surrounding areas do not freeze enough to support a person's weight; ensure this information is publicized. All Fort Knox bodies of water are off limits to winter sports such as ice-skating. Follow common sense rules when skiing, snow boarding, ice-skating, and snowmobiling; never exceed your capabilities.

(c) *Hunting.* Although hunting is a year around sport, hazards associated with the winter season increase risk. Cold weather, snow and ice, poor footing, and reduced visibility all require close consideration to ensure hunter's safety.

(d) *Privately-Owned Vehicle (POV) Travel.* Always carry a winter "car survival kit," e.g., blanket, extra clothing, nourishment, and water, and a shovel, when traveling. Before long trips check road and weather conditions at the following web page (<http://www.weather.com>). Ensure your POV is prepared for the winter season; check exhaust system, wipers, antifreeze, heater/defroster, tires, and brakes.

(e) *Holiday Lighting.* Use only lighting with Underwriters Laboratory label. Never install lighting outdoors that is designed for indoor use. Inspect and repair as necessary all electrical wiring and extension cords before installation. Use caution when installing lights to prevent falls.

(f) *Furnace Filters.* Family housing residents must change/clean furnace filters monthly. Dirty filters lead to improper operation of the furnace and may result in fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. Filters are available at the self-help store, building 72.

(g) *Carbon Monoxide (CO).* Homes, to include those off-post, must be inspected before heating season to ensure heating systems and gas-fired appliances are properly vented. Contact DBOS Housing Division for inspection and repair of on-post housing; off-post residents should have homes inspected by a qualified technician and ensure identified problems are

ATZK-S

SUBJECT: Winter Safety Campaign

corrected immediately. Never use propane, charcoal or other unauthorized fuel to heat buildings or tents; also, never leave a vehicle running in a closed garage and if you must sit in a vehicle with the engine running outside, open a window for ventilation.

5. Preventing accidents and injuries during the winter season is a challenge which requires top to bottom support; it is not just a commander's program. Individual soldiers and civilian employees must assume some responsibility, e.g., adjust driving behavior to road conditions, dress according to weather conditions, inspect facilities and equipment for hazards that may produce fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. The Armor Branch Safety Office staff will assist with winter safety issues. Contact them at 4-4920.



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Commanding